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AND WHY
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LOT WORSE**

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PLUS: COYNE ON AVOIDING MULRONEY P.27



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As Vice President Business Technology Centre at Sobeys Inc., the second largest grocery chain in Canada, Lillie Craikbank is more than an accountant. "Being a CMA has provided me with the business management skills that help me connect the dots between strategy and action. We're in a highly competitive environment. We have to control costs while providing our customers with the best food offering." For Lillie, it's crucial that all systems and processes are optimized in order to get the right goods to Sobeys' customers at the right time. "It's all about finding your passion within a business, leaving everything you touch better than how you found it. We're really proud of the success of Sobeys. I share that, and also take pride in being a CMA." To learn more about Lillie, and to find out what a CMA can do for you, visit cma-canada.org



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'You certainly covered the gamut from winners [like Sarah Polley] to twits. Kudos to all.'

'BLOWOUT' OF THE YEAR

KUDOS TO ALL who had a hand in the special edition (*Newsweek's* 9, Dec. 17). You certainly covered the gamut from dissenters, winners, losers, friends, critics and cops, each and every section truly interesting. It was a massive effort and, as a longtime subscriber, I would like to offer my thanks for great reading.
Nancy Flynn, Toronto

A BRITISH FRIEND of Maclean's recently asked me to tell her how to get to and from work to read. This so-called double issue took me only six days. It was so full of intelligent articles and honest concerns that it made *People* and *US* magazines look interesting and even slightly intelligent. At least the timing was right, the 14 other parts of the bus allowed me to work on my Christmas list.
Christian Dylla, Orleans, Ont.

THANK YOU so much for that wonderful special edition: what a blowout! I was particularly impressed with John Fraser's article on Conrad Black, your newsmaker of the year. No one is at all bad, I guess.
Pat Brown (pseud), Greens, Ont.

IT WAS INTERESTING to read this in John Fraser's article—"The problem in the man doesn't think he has done anything wrong, at least not so wrong that he deserves to go to prison." Here I thought that it was the justice system that decided whether some one was a criminal and should go to jail. I did not realize that Black himself had any say in the decision. It just doesn't make sense. Here we have an ordinary citizen like Robert Lamm who has been denied bail for refusing to be responsible for relieving his daughter of her pain and suffering, while at the same time we have the not so ordinary Lord Black who may possibly stay out of jail on the very same grounds.
Jodie McDonald, Monksville, Ont.

I THINK the pressures are getting far too much pleasure from his lordship's downfall. Conrad and his nitwits may be obnoxious social climbers, but the academy/fairer over their inability is way over the top. The bells are disappointed that Black didn't get to 10, while his supporters feel he should

have been let off with a fine. I would have saved my pennies for a few bucks by sponsoring Black on a year's day laborer in a Chicago soup kitchen. This would have enabled the paraplegic one to live in his usual luxurious style by night, while earning to the detriment of day. Nothing should stand in the way of the police might have given him a fresh view of the real world.
William Bradford, Toronto

BLACK IS MORE intelligent, better educated and generally superior to the rest of us. I wouldn't argue that. But it is also true that Black is going to prison and I'm not.
T. W. Gosses, Iwajell, Ont.



HOW COULD YOU neglect to include Ontario's merger with Anacle and subsequent takeover by Metrol? It's a shame that Maclean's can mention something as trivial as AJ Sharpton's remote connection with Strawn. That's not, but not the loss of rationality of one of Canada's most interesting guests.
Andrew Lynne, Burlington, Ont.

AMONG THE 14 PEOPLE whose pictures appeared on the cover of your newsmakers issue, four were women, one of whom was not an actress. Why must I turn to the comic-book section to see a picture of Denise Biernie, who is risking her life in pursuit of democracy? I urge you to consider whether your cover is a true reflection of the roles women play around the world.
Alexander Young, Toronto

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

ONCE AGAIN, Andrew Coyne is right on the money ("Get a complaint? Call 1-800-Human-Rights," *Ottawa*, Dec. 17). The actions of several human rights commissions opening investigations on Maclean's speaks to the extent to which that country has gone to thwart even mild expressions of free speech. All one needs is a well-developed sense of outrage, a fringe interest group, take up the cudgils and make a lot of noise, and presto, we have a human rights investigation. When Alan Fournier, long time general counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, criticizes human rights commissions for stifling freedom of speech, we know it's time to rein them in.
George Melchior, Toronto

I FEEL COMPELLED to subscribe now, as a sign of moral and financial support, while you battle the complaints filed against you by the Canadian Islamic Congress. Regard less of whether one agrees or disagrees with Mark Steyn's article "Why the future belongs to Islam," excerpted in your magazine on Oct. 23, 1996, from his book *America Alone*, or your decision to publish it, the use of a quasi-judicial body to suppress freedom of speech is an appalling disgrace. The right to free speech is, and always will be, more important than the right not to be offended, and I believe all freedom-loving Canadians should stand with you in this.
Greg Best, Ottawa

I'M CONVINCED that Maclean's is finally being held accountable for the contents of its publications. I previously attributed such actions as "Why the future belongs to Islam" to a slanted, hate-filled reporting staff, but it appears as if the biased oversight is the top. The reason we have laws against hate speech is that it inevitably causes hate crimes. As a law student, I won't forget how the magazine attempted to tarnish the name of my profession as well, and I'm sure that during the course of my professional career, I will make it a point to hold it accountable.
Osair He Ruyale, LL.B. candidate, University of Western Ontario, London, Ont.

IT'S BECOMING more and more obvious that we are slowly losing our freedom of speech because of our intense desire to maintain a strict political correctness and to offend

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PUTTING PEN TO PAPER is charming, a reader says, but it's always the content that counts

nobody I have yet to see an article written that could not offend someone. Freedom of speech should include the freedom to offend, as long as it is done graciously, respectfully, and with truth as the highest priority.

Herman Salomonson, Red Deer, Alta.

THE CBC'S COMPLAINT to human rights commissions is proof that so in the "What lack the strength to resist Islam." This is indeed the thin edge of the wedge. We are too busy trying to accommodate the Muslims here we should be confronting them about their unrelenting, their bigotry and their misogyny. There is no reason to the Canadian Human Rights Commission expressing my desire that it disavow the CBC's assertions regarding my article. I don't lie. Well, the bureaucrats on their consciences are too politically correct. I wish you back in your fight against the CBC for free speech and urge you not to give in to self-censorship.

Richard John Parry, Toronto

PLACING LIMITS on free speech is a slippery slope, but that is not the only issue to play here. There is often a fine line that is crossed between opinion and hate propaganda, and our laws need to reflect this more effectively. Where do we draw the line? When a group of people is harassed or when someone is beaten? How about killed? When your writer Andrew Coyne sits in a high house speaking the ideals of free speech, he doesn't stop and think about the consequences of his words. The CBC, while maybe insensitive in its role, is just trying to fight the ever-growing tide of hate propaganda messages that flood the media daily.

Lauren Domenech, Windsor, Ont.

MESSAGES FOR AMEL

BEING AMEL is no bad as Canada's billions pay for it. Barbara Arltel the time to when-

likely issue on the timelessness of the handwritten letter while writing her \$2,000 bill for \$5,000 perfume to block out the poof of her featured costume for the typed letter ("Thanks for dinner" just doesn't count," *Opinion*, Dec. 3). And while, in fact, I do agree wholeheartedly with Arltel about modern modern letter (tablets, e-mails and the wading beauty and charm of a letter written in cursive, at its most what matters is the impact and emotion of the message being written, no matter what the medium. Her column, questioning me in short sighted and out of touch. I am just trying to use the advantages of today's technology. Do you think the digital letters would be cherished like letters in stone, rather than use pen and paper because it was more natural?

Ross Cooper, Cranbrook, B.C.

I COULD NOT HELP but be puzzled in between Barbara Arltel's article about the Israeli condition and the propaganda reported by the Israeli lobby in the U.S., in which any person who opposes Israel is labelled as anti-Semitic ("Flickering lights, burning brightly in the dark," *Opinion*, Dec. 17). This gives Israel and its supporters carte blanche to commit gross human rights abuses against Palestinians, and it is used to delegitimize criticism of the state itself. Why is it that Israel is immune from the kind of criticism when other states are not? Perhaps it is because Israel is not a legitimate state at all, and its supporters find comfort in being able to shield them from the facts and arrows of critical thought when they accuse this state of free-living.

Lindsay Blackwell, Whistler, Ont.

NOT-SO-GOLDEN IN B.C.

BEFORE CHANCEMAN Gordon Campbell Canada's most popular premier (Gordon Campbell makes a U-turn," *National*, Dec.

MAIL BAG

"The booming economy in British Columbia does not reflect Premier Gordon Campbell's actions, but rather high commodity prices and a continued Vancouver real estate boom driven by immigration"

10), you might have checked with a few Timorish Canadians, many of whom have a different opinion. The booming B.C. economy does not reflect Campbell's actions, but rather high commodity prices and a continued Vancouver real estate boom driven by immigration. The resulting tax largesse in being spent on the Olympics and associated mega projects aimed squarely at supporting business in the Vancouver area. These have driven up costs of construction for locally made housing and stifled educational development in other parts of the province, whose needs are largely ignored by Campbell's government, even in their own cities. With this, Campbell didn't promote tax cuts, a real saving for upper-income earners, but B.C.'s tax laws continue to discriminate against those who most need help. Tax breaks are lower and deductions for students and the elderly are substantially less, and government deductible health and dental insurance share of lower incomes. Campbell's apparent progress on active land claims as supported by critics' concerns for both the high cost and the type of projects being transferred. Even Campbell's vision of free enterprise is selective one, with taxpayer money supporting the fabulously expensive Vancouver Convention Centre (a hotelodge that would have even the NDP, while an essential ferry system that serves almost a million residents in light struggling to pay its way. If Campbell survives the next election it will be more a testament to the hopelessness of his opposition than to the effectiveness of his government in serving the majority of British Columbians.

R. Gary McGeig, Port Alberni, B.C.

ROCK 'N' ROLL CLASSROOM

HARRY POTTER is in the radio era and using "You and I" pop music in my English class, I enjoyed immensely Brian D. Johnson's engaging article on old rock songs striving to save the answers ("Back to the radio," *Music*, Dec. 17). I like to include around the radio and listen to Alan Freed from WINS New York, or Peter Trapp play the hit parade every night on WNEW New York. How surprising to see how current DJs like Randy Bachman are using today's technology to bring back the classics. I don't share such nostalgia, we're enjoying an nostalgia, but not missing an aspect of pop culture and



SLO-TIME ROCK: Van Zandt should promote teaching it, writes a reader. It is our culture.

as a common sign. Today when we listen to Steven Van Zandt on the radio, we are not only hearing the classics, but hearing (in our minds) around the gym again. I am so glad that Van Zandt plans to put rock 'n' roll on America's high school curriculum. Using the poetry of the Beatles was the only way I could teach my high school students.

Bernard J. Callaghan, Charlottesville

ALLEGATIONS OF SCANDAL

IT IS AN EDUCATING OF painful stretch to think that a man of Brian Mulroney's reputation did not understand that taking child payments from a identity foreign operator was stupid ("Why did so many trust this man?" *National*, Dec. 17). Not only possible that he needed the money so badly he was willing to risk taking it from a sleazy guy like Karl Buehler, but the Mulroney family has been doing nothing illegal. But I guess tell me, from where the rest of us are sitting, some thing you think not lead.

Mary Jo Miller, Kingston, Ont.

I DON'T KNOW what people are thinking about when they complain about the cost of getting to the bottom of the Schellenberg/Walton affair. We have little reason confidence now with elected representatives and the notion as even the suspicion that they didn't obey the rules and regulations is quite ridiculous. To abuse those who are not and say the investigations should be stopped makes no sense since as saying that the cost of prosecuting Robert Pickton is a waste of money.

Jim Dew, Lefseville, B.C.

IN THE STORY on the far reach of Schellenberg in Canada, your writer says that in 1983, the man poured money into the dumpsite Clark campaign, and that, as a Tory party gathering, Clark received a landslide vote of 600 votes from the party. An endorsement of 600 per cent was hardly landslide. The story further states that Clark was forced, therefore, to call a leadership convention. If only my server, it was Clark and presumably his advisers who decided that mandate was insufficient and chose to seek a higher level of support in a full convention. Nobody forced Joe to do anything.

L.B. Simpson, Willowsdale, Ont.

IN PASSING

Don Cheever, 64, broadcaster. Involving news with the CBC and other outlets, he earned respect for his vocabulary, call www.bell.ca/cheever, being, being, and being as well as Olympic sports. Most recently he undertook the role of co-commentator on American viewers as part of NBC's Winter Olympic coverage.

G.R. Sippy, 55, film producer. The creator of one of the most successful Indian film series, his *Sholay* (Sholay) series made in 1975 and earned US\$60 million. Although a relatively modest tale by Western standards, the film played for more than three years and became celebrated as India's first "crazy western."

Sippy's career spanned 40 years.

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON WHO BUYS MP KAREN REDMAN FLOWERS AND THE '08 CUTBACK ON TIES



STROMACH wants more fuel

THIS IS THE YEAR I TEACH YOU TO REPLACE THE TOILET PAPER ROLL

Yes, there are politicians who can jump premises, as Capital Diary found out when MPs were asked to talk about their 2008 New Year's resolutions, or ones they'd already kept in the past. Liberal party ally Karen Redman admitted "a huge battle in my New Year's resolutions," and says she looks at them as "Marilyn refinements." The Kitchener Centre MP, for instance, doesn't have a day "because I found out that tooth plaque has a relation with plaque in your blood vessels. One year I decided I would drink better wine. It did lead to drinking less wine because there is a lot of no-so-good wine served when you go to events." Another resolution was to buy flowers for himself every week. "Take them home and say to my husband, 'Thank you for these gorgeous flowers.'" There's one resolution Redman did not keep, though. "I am a very bad singer and I

had determined I was going to take voice lessons. Nobody in my family will share the hymn book with me [at church] because they don't want me singing off-key in their ear."

Prince Edward Island's Mary kept one of the classic resolutions: "I told them to remind me that when we were expecting triplets I would quit smoking when they were born on March 12, 1991." Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl has kept a decade-long resolution: "I started running after 40 years of being a couch potato. It came about because my wife had run several Vancouver Sun papers. I finally woke up after eating doughnuts and cheer- ing her across the finish line that I never got in the running game or I wouldn't be able to catch her again." Industry Minister Jim Prentice will win "best dad ever" for this one: "My resolution this year is to buy flowers and spend all of those dollars on clothing for my university daughters." Last year he bought about seven Liberal MP Belinda Stonenko, who has previously diagnosed with breast cancer and said she would not be running in the next election, is keeping her 2008 resolution simple: "Flower care day." Cape Breton Liberal MP Rodriguez Cunniff is also keeping a simple.

PEARSON with two of his kids



"This year I resolve to teach my roommates how to replace the toilet paper roll." Concerns about Ottawa space with fellow Cape Breton MP Mark Ebyling Mac MP Wilton Barlow, who will be up against Justin

Trudeau in the next election, says the plan is to read up on Nicola Machinelli. When Barlow heard some one on Radio-Canada refer to Stephen Harper as Machinelli, "it dawned on me that I have never read Machinelli all the way through." In 2001, NDP News Secret MP Peter Stoffer made a resolution to read more books. He served at a book a week and "I was very close to it." He got through "about 45 books," including some Ernest Hemingway and Bill Bryson's in a Shepherd Cowley. The NDP's Paul Dewar says that when he was a teacher before entering public life, "I made a New Year's resolution to take all year round." Dewar represents Ottawa Centre. "I did that for a year, but I changed the second year." He still believes a lot, but his biggest three days to take the bus to the winter month. Toronto NDP MP Olivia Chow learned the butterfly stroke in swimming one year, while her cousin colleague Charlie Angus, a politician, says he never returns his resolutions because on New Year's he's usually playing with his band in a bar.

In 2004, London, Ont., Liberal Glen Pearson made a big resolution: "We [my wife and I] go to Sudan a lot and we always go in January. I decided I wanted to adopt a child from Darfur and we ended up getting three. We found her brother and sister a few years ago." For Toronto Liberal Judy Sigafoos, "the best [resolution] I had was to make sure I tell my family I love them every



NO RESOLUTIONS Paul Dewar; Karen Redman; Wilton Barlow; Rodriguez Cunniff

week. And that one I kept. That was about four years ago. I went through a rough time and it made me realize how much I love them and how rarely I ever told them." M

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- d. All of the above

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We're special? Better not look too closely.



PAUL WELLS

We take our test, as this new year begins, from Bill and Guy's laudible and unimpeachable biography of our first prime minister, John A. The Man Who Made Us. This book improves rapidly after the first un-

der, as I journey to pick some people for at this opening line. Here it is: "If no other national competition were ever to be staged to identify the world's most complex and contradictory country, Canada would be a serious contender."

Really? Probably it would depend on who the judge was. If the new Canadian, Canada would have a choice. If not, no choice.

If, on the other hand, an international competition were ever to be staged to identify the world's most well-observed country, Canada would be a serious contender. If an international competition were ever to be staged to identify the country whose writers write the best about their own, we'd likely to spend time dreaming up international competitions that might be won by that country. Canada would win once the league would have to fill out the jersey.

But, you say, Canada has immigrants! And Indians! And two languages! And federalism! And a proletrian neighbour! And injustice! To which the rest of the world answers: get in line. The year 2008 will see elections in Pakistan, Georgia, Russia, Spain and the United States. Every one of these countries has as least one complex and contradictory Congressional separation, Utah Mormonism, the heretics of Berlin, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. But the Canadian capacity for self-flagellation quickly that anyone here will agree, or that anyone there will stand when we don't.

Canada, too, will take a national general election in 2008. This means we will all be hearing a lot more, from every leader, about our own special specialties, and a lot less about the complex and contradictory world. That's our way to do things with us preparing to make momentous decisions, retreat into safety. We're not even the only country that does that, but we do have a knack.

In December, Harper's borderless Schengen state expanded to include 16 new countries. This means a Pole can walk from Poland into Germany to sleep without stopping to show a passport. Whereas, as we saw in October, a Pole who wants to walk from Vancouver International Airport's baggage claim area to his passenger's arrival lobby cannot be sure he will escape doing so by distraction. In these circumstances, it is hard not to be too sure we have lessons to teach anyone about worldliness.

Stephen Harper spent almost two years praising Canada's ties to Australia, a country whose history and challenges oddly resemble ours. He became the first Canadian prime minister to address Australia's parliament. Then Kevin Rudd lost Harper's friend John Howard as Australia's prime minister. The answer will probably not show up as your morning news. The National on CBC is lately making only two or three stories a week from its foreign bureau. Manon Bérubé, who is rumored to be Canada's foreign minister, has cleaved to commit art the practice of sending no announcement about his foreign trips only after he has landed in foreign capitals. This means no report will come trouble by actually reporting anything. Several days.

Each have shown more steel in Afghanistan—four Australian combat deaths, 73 Canadians. But this, countries often have to show and in places where they have not shown equally. When Afghanistan was going to fall in the 1990s, Canada's leader Brian Mulroney and John Chrétien was not paying any more reason that anyone else to be in an interesting question that will not be asked during the next federal election, when a Canadian's party they likely to be asked in Canadian blood, someone?

The answer will probably not show up as your morning news. The National on CBC is lately making only two or three stories a week from its foreign bureau. Manon Bérubé, who is rumored to be Canada's foreign minister, has cleaved to commit art the practice of sending no announcement about his foreign trips only after he has landed in foreign capitals. This means no report will come trouble by actually reporting anything. Several days.

The common that Canada is best when

In a competition for the world's most self-obsessed country, Canada might win



it says least has a long history. In 2001, as a Canadian. Perot just arrived Christmas and some reporters on a Thursday night to a summit of the Francophonie in Beirut, I asked a government official what the Canadian delegation's goal for the weekend was. "Winning," he said.

In 1981 in this magazine, the great Allen Finkelstein published a column, one question: "What is Canada's external affairs minister?" (He was Mark Gougeon.) The next question: "How can you tell?"

It has always been easier when perceiving oneself that Canada leads the world in a particular, not to look too closely at the world. This is how the tabernacle manager, with a straight face, to be sure, the "too" of Canada's "global leadership" on the environment. It is how everyone manages to avoid the fact that by European standards, our public infrastructure is laughably rudimentary. Or that by global standards our universities were finally getting back into the game in 2000 and 2001, well our leaders go on of trying.

I once had an editor in New York who wanted me to find a quote, someone had over the United States, and took at Canada. Suddenly we're the most isolated country in the world. Almost like Australia, indeed. But the Australian knew they're isolated and never stop looking abroad. We still search we're sophisticated and shelter on it.

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells visit his blog at www.mackinnon.ca/thinkeithical

[Innovation in Action]

Power to the People

Smart metering will give electrical utilities more control over their distribution networks — and give you more information on how you use electricity. How will this affect consumers, businesses and the environment? And how can you benefit? In an interview for *Maclean's* readers, James Strapp, Associate Partner with IBM Global Business Services Energy and Utilities Practice, explores the new frontier of smart metering.

“The smart meter can also monitor the quality of the power you are receiving and can monitor when your power goes out.”



Smart metering opens up new opportunities to provide more reliable service, new types of service, and more flexible pricing models that encourage conservation.

Q What is a smart meter, and why should Canadians care?

A Smart meter is a digital device installed to your house that replaces the old electromechanical meter. In the past a meter reader would come around to collect data on how much electricity was used. Now a smart meter will automatically record when you use electricity, up to each minute. It then transmits this data through a wireless communication link to the utility company. The smart meter can also monitor the quality of the power you are receiving and can monitor when your power goes out. This data will give consumers more information about how they use electricity, or better manage their energy costs. For utilities,

Q How would consumers keep track of their energy consumption?

A There are three ways that homeowners with a smart meter can monitor energy use. Consumers get a much more informative bill, which can tell them when they use electricity, and how that electricity use compares with when people's usage patterns. And if the utility has implemented a flexible pricing structure, the bill will also break out the rates for different times of the day. Typically the utility also maintains a Web site where the consumer can review that usage. Finally, some utilities are exploring using smart thermostats or displays in the home to give consumers more real-time information.

Q Is there any evidence that smart meters reduce energy consumption?

A IBM has participated in first research projects that show that smart meters, when combined with smarter pricing, can change customer behaviour and create real energy savings. In a pilot program with the Ontario Energy Board, IBM put 375 Ontario customers on different pricing structures. One was a single "rate of use," when they paid different electricity prices at different times of the day. Another group was told that on certain days, for a few hours in the summer time and a few hours in the winter, the price would be raised by about five times — because that's when the electricity system is most stressed, and when the utility companies really need to reduce power. And some consumers actually got rebates for reducing their electricity use during those same peak hours. After seven months, people were using an average of 6% less power. This can have a large impact on the environment.

Q What other benefits accrue from smart metering?

A You'll also see benefits in terms of reliability. Having a connection to everyone's home means that, for the first time, the utility will know

when your power goes out. Right now, typically, with a small outage they don't know the power's out until the customer calls them. Another opportunity is using smart metering as a gateway into the future. Consumers could offer new services to help you manage your energy costs. You could have a smart thermostat, and devices on your appliances that control energy use and adjust for different times of day.

Q How is IBM contributing to the deployment of smart metering?

A We now have lead roles in five of the largest deployments ongoing in North America. Plus, we are helping utilities around the world figure out how to plan for the technology change and bring the whole organization together to drive the kinds of benefits that are possible with smart metering.

Q What's the outlook for smart meters? When will they be available commercially?

A A number of programs are underway. Ontario is committed to having smart meters across the province by 2010. British Columbia has just announced it is going to have them in place by 2013, and we're seeing other utilities follow. Canadians are very much on the forefront of smart metering. A lot of people are looking very carefully at what Canada is doing.

To view the interview, please visit www.macleans.ca/ibm

Register for the Innovation in Action Online Summit, May 13, 2008



James Strapp, Associate Partner with IBM Global Business Services Energy and Utilities Practice

Sponsored by
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HEARD ON STEPS OF HEAD OFFICE FRIDAY 8:15AM

Smart guy: But how do we differentiate in a customer-centric environment?

Witty guy: Everyone else is going around.

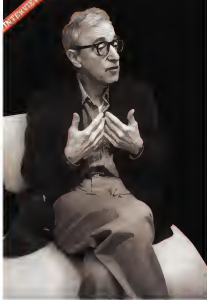
Smart guy: I think I can do that.

It's a known fact that IBM is a company that is always looking for ways to improve itself. From a small business to a global giant, IBM has always been a company that is always looking for ways to improve itself. From a small business to a global giant, IBM has always been a company that is always looking for ways to improve itself.

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INTERVIEW



'I can't play in my films because I can't get the girl anymore so it takes the fun out of it. I can't play the lecherous, inept character.'

WOODY ALLEN TALKS TO KENNETH WHYTE ABOUT SOON-YI, SCARLETT JOHANSSON, HOLLYWOOD 'TOILET JOKES,' AND HIS ODD EATING HABITS

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF JARVIS

Q In the new film, *Cassandra's Dream*, we have a couple of brothers, a horrible crime, a family torn apart, a terrible ending. Is this the Russian movie that you'll never write?

A: Well, you know, I have always wanted to do these kind of films, like *Match Point* and *Cassandra's Dream*, and it just so happened that I had a sense of humour and comedy was my strong point and so I succeeded by doing comedies, and I then became known for doing comedies and any time I would depart from that it was always difficult for me. First of all because I wasn't as good at it, and because people didn't want to film me. When I would go into the film company and say, "I'd like to do this dramatic story," they wouldn't be thrilled and didn't want to put up the money for it. But recently I've been getting my financing ahead—so I made *Cassandra's Dream* and *Match Point* in England—and when you're not working with a studio they're not interested in the content, they just want to put their money in something that's beneficial for them, and that's good for me because then I can make whatever film I want to make. Then *Match Point* was quite successful for me, so I felt, "Well, if people will accept this from me, then I can do some of the films that I've always wanted to do."

Q: You have been near this material before, though, in *Criminals and Minds* movies, where a small crime leads to a larger crime, and the coming up of a small crime required a larger crime. The man behind the murder gets away with it. And you suggested life was like that, that people get away with things and could live with human crime.

A: I do feel that in everyday life people are a great spectrum going with crime all the way, ranging from genocide to just street crime. Most crimes do go unresolved, and people commit murders and take other people and do the worst things in the world and, you know, there's no one to punish you if you don't have a sense of conscience about it. There's no element in life of conscience, nor justice; justice that we live with all the time it's just an ugly but true fact of life.

Q: For someone who once said that life is a come-by-chance, meaningless little charade, this is a very serious and searching film. This is a paradox, isn't it, making meaningful films about the meaninglessness of existence?

A: I have no real answers or knowledge of these things. I only have my feelings about them, and I'm ready to explore all the possibilities. My own personal conclusion concerns with what seems to be the everyday finding of our pleasures, that it was an accident, that it will end, and it was just an odd little phe-



ent, would have no interest in acting in any thing. I've never given the matter a moment's thought or speculated on it, but they'll write that. When we get married they write on a very friendly way—that we wouldn't be living together, that I would be living separately so I could keep my writing going.

Quote you and Sean in those papers?

A Oh, of course. We live together as middle-class husband and wife. I mean, we have a house in New York, we have two children, I never go anywhere that the family doesn't come with me. We're a very close family and we've been married for about 10 years now.

Q: Do you look on family life in your role, essentially?

A Yes. My first wife, I was very, very young—I was 15—when I got married and I just didn't work out, but she was a lovely girl, very bright. And my second wife I'm still very friendly with—Louise Lasser, an actress—also lovely but it just didn't work out, but we remained friendly. But I would have been happy to have had a family with each of them if it had worked out, and when Sean's dad got married we wanted to have a family. I lived a very, very middle-class life, you know, up in the morning, take the kids to school, do the household, write, go for a walk with my wife, eat out with friends. I don't do anything adventurous or exotic.

Q: Do you feel that the controversy around you being in a relationship with Sean'll be offset your ability to make as much money?

A No, not at all. In the slightest, I've been constantly productive. I've never made less than a movie a year my entire professional life. If anything, to have a firm, solid family life is very good for my kind of creative life, because I'm a very disciplined worker, and if to be sat and drinking is not a good for me as having a very stable middle-class life.

Q: I read that one of your quips is that you cut your hair into seven pieces.

A I've afraid not to become, you know, I

'I take my daughters to school every morning, and my driver always has the tabloids, so I go through the first couple of pages so I'm up on, you know, who's having sex with who in an elevator'

started cutting it one morning into seven slices and nothing had happened to me.

Q: How did you settle on seven?

A I just cut the first one into seven slices and then the next day I cut it into seven and then it started to become a thing. Like Babe Ruth always reaching second base coming in from the outfield. But someone who is so scientific-minded as I am and such a skeptic, I have a surprising amount of superstitions. I have no religion, I'm completely agnostic, and yet I feel with I do throw it over my left shoulder, I won't get hurt and he'd won't while in the dressing room. I don't know why. It's like—again, to use a sports example—when you're watching a ball game and things are going well for your team you don't want to get up and get a drink of water or something because you think that you're in the game scheme of things, the BuckleBuck game, that that's part of it too.

Q: But you don't ever tempt it and do as little pieces and one big piece?

A Yes, I can do that. It doesn't matter, it's just the quantity.

Q: Do you have to cut it off seven?

A I don't have to cut them all. I do cut them all because seven is not a six, and I generally cut relatively prepubescent sizes.

Q: But no other food... I don't want to call it a fiftick, but...

A Nothing I can think of offhand. I won't accept silk being passed to me at a table. If I'm up to my daughter, "Can I have the salt?", I always make sure that it's put down and I pick it up.

Q: One last question. You tend, culturally, to look backwards for movies you liked, the

made that in your movies. Your points of connection with American culture seem to be right on the '30s, '40s, '50s. Is that true? Are there things out there now that are fascinating to you, in literature/movies/music of a contemporary sort?

A I am very into it that way. I do feel that the popular music of America was at its greatest up until 1950 or '51. As much as I get criticism for this, I feel the music of Kern and Gershwin and Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, was superior popular music to the modern guitar groups that I hear now. I don't buy into the fact—which I think all the time—that there's been a dumbing down in America, and this generation is dumber than my generation. You know in your heart that can't be true, that if anything they'd be smarter, in the way that the average money doctor today is miles above Hippocrates, you know? And yet I do feel that the culture of past eras in some way resonates with me in a more profound way, and I make the personal value judgment that it was better, that films were better and that music was better, and that we're going through a period that's not as good. But it's strictly a subjective judgment.

Q: Does it apply to basketball, too?

A Basketball? Well, yeah, that's deplorable. The game is exciting still. It's less exciting than it was, because the athletes that have come along are so spectacular and so acrobatic and gymnastic and the madman encourages that part of the game. When Jack Barry was playing, and Larry Bird, it was more complex, and I appreciated it more. ■

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



CANADIAN GET THEIR VERY OWN OPRAH

Michaëlle Jean is either hopelessly naive or the most ambitious politician we have

BY AARON WHERRY

"WE DON'T WANT THINGS to be uptight. The Governor General likes to have a 'type' style." On a small stage in the basement of an Ottawa art gallery, a round, middle-aged white guy wearing a goatee and an Adidas track suit and a black woman in traditional African dress—self-described as the goddess of alien poetry—are explaining the rules. The crowd is mostly black and mostly young, save for a cluster of white politicians and dignitaries, all invited guests at this 'urban art dance.' "People are pushed in front

and media, sculpture, spoken word, poetry, graffiti, painting, theatre, locking or popping—have a major role to play in bringing it together."

There is the same deferential silence that fills a room whenever Jean speaks. Dullness, though, is not to be confused with timidity too. For the next two hours, the Governor General sits, mostly quiet, as a series of teenagers and young men air their grievances and misadventures as they grow older. Jean takes notes in a light lavender Ottawa's notepad. An angry young man rants against mistreatment. The city councillor Ediger and bang their heads as he vents.

The setting is hardly regal. A young girl is ready-jumped from the room when she takes too long with a rambling review of her life. But Jean never sits back, never yawns, never seems the least bit uncomfortable. Nor

stompage hits. Two years into her reign, Michaëlle Jean is equally at this place and absolutely beyond it. "When I was approached with this idea of becoming governor general, I didn't know right away" she says. "My first reaction was to propose issues. I came up with 10 right away and they said, 'No, we took care of that.' We had a commission, you know, but the idea was to ask you." So I took about four weeks and I knew that to have a person like me becoming governor general would actually provide a lot of hope in so many people. I knew that I know it. And just for that reason it was worth considering."

woman in a powerful position and one with some celebrity. But Oprah's pressy gift is an ability to appeal intimately on an emotional level. To feel publicly and deeply. And there is some of this in Jean. "I come from a culture where we can be physically very close to people. I thank people to hug them," she says. "At every ceremony, every occasion, people say, 'You make me feel comfortable.'"

A few weeks later, she sits at this same room to listen because upon our basic soldiers. Before an audience of parents, siblings, girlfriends and spouses, young men are marched one by one to the front of the room where

'IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO JUMP INTO THE ARENA, BECOME PART OF THE NOISE,' SHE SAYS. 'I SIT OUTSIDE THE NOISE.'



THE JOB OF VICTORIAN women with contradictory expectations: act too close, and it seems you're gutting control away, at all enough, and you alienate the public. Jean, seen here on visits to Eritrea, Afghanistan, Ghana, and at home on Parliament Hill, strikes a good balance.

of the stage and into a second room. "The Governor General is the politician," Thibault continues. "If you've got a political ear to grind, this is not the place." Furthermore, there will be no "dining." The aforementioned goddess-like everyone is in a short and the crowd is admonished when it grows tired. "If you're not more hype than this, the Governor General will not be coming out."

At last, while later though, Michaëlle Jean arrives, her audience visibly hype. The Governor General finds her way to the stage, smiling in all directions. When the noise diminishes, a female voice on the opposite side. "We love you!" she yells.

Jean sits back in her chair, beaming. She is surrounded by flowers, and then one of her guards approaches the front and lays out her speech. "I am here today because I believe in your capacity to make a difference. I believe in your unique message of hope," Jean says in her laconic, deliberate, accented delivery. "It also believe that the arts—whether it is rap,

does the norm the least bit out of place. "We loves people and people love her," says Thibault. "And I really feel she's speaking for the people."

Says Jean: "I like people who make something the impossible come true. Like people who are thought provoking. Like people who are very audacious. I like people who have an idea about making a difference and bring about change around them."

BRUSH OF THE GOVERNOR General's hairline is conducted in Rialta Hall's main ballroom, below a 12,000-pie in crystal chandelier. Twentieth-century paintings bedeck the room. In one, a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, the monarchy were the first from Canada and emerged from each other. At the opposite end of the room, in a painting called *Charlemagne Renowned*, the Father of Confederation appears rampant in

Now so, the walls lightly but with a slight swag. She smiles and nods and looks every colour in the eye, but her focus seems unable of focusing. Whether husband's spurs through ceremonial proceedings, Jean is ever conscious that she is being watched. When particularly hard hit, her hand reflexively covers her heart. Speaking under breath that chandelier is a gathering of accomplished and powerful women, she is Oprah like. She looks on syllables, leans on the lectern and stretches out the vowels in words like hope and pride. She returns that a woman's flow risk is "accepting her unique voice." She explains her purpose. "I never wanted to be someone other than who I was." And she also the assurance to "defend those who want to pursue their dreams with their fears." She leaves to extended applause.

The Oprah comparison is apt, but not entirely without merit. Yes, she is a black

she stands rigid and emotionless in front of her. Jean stands opposite each of them, nodding, as their stories of bravery are read aloud. At the end of each intervention she cradles her head and smiles, taking the soldier's right hand with both of hers. She reaches out the arm and offers a quiet thank you. "I'm so proud of you," she appears to say.

Eventually a widow is called on to accept a posthumous medal. Approaching the Governor General, she immediately reaches out and takes Jean's hands. Both weary eyes, they stand holding on to each other with a decorated soldier in a decorated. When one of the men seemed eager to be done with their mission, the woman fingers, Jean smiling her arms and talking softly. Eventually, the widow abandons all decorum and throws her arms around the Governor General.

It may be naive to like this so far, how unceremonious the Governor General once was

PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE; PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE; PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE; PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE; PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE

How her very loyalty to the country was questioned, she and her husband, Jean-Denis Michélin, accused of harboring separatist sympathies and questioning their French citizenship. "I think from the very beginning, a woman's role they were talking about. They were talking about themselves," the men, distancing herself from this country's decades of identity crisis. "I couldn't relate to those accusations. Because I know who I am. I knew what I stood for. I profoundly believe in citizenship. And I know what citizenship is about. And I could say the same for my husband."

In 45 minutes interviews, it's the only couple that seems to have her loyalty questioned. "This is something that you have to learn at a very young age. And especially when you are a female, okay?" This is something that you have to learn pretty fast. What belongs to you and what doesn't belong to you. What you can associate with and when you can't associate with. It's about keeping your own dignity.

MICHAËLLE JEAN with George W. Bush in Ottawa, comforting the widow of a fellow senator at a republican ceremony in Cape Town, and heading out to receive candy at Rideau Hall. She is even conscious of being watched, her face an entirely acceptable form of torture.

FOLLOWING A RECENT Order of Canada ceremony, a reception was held in Biden's well-appointed West House. Off to one side, a crowd gathered around the Governor General. Her aides say this happens whenever the guest—people make other side, to each other, touch her, talk to her and her. While Jean shares with one person, another person two-thirds beside her of the same is a story.

Asked later, Jean does it as the press is approaching and clapping himself in the moment. "It's not about me. It's about them. There was one occasion where I was invited to the school of the federal world as a play about me. It can become an embarrassing situation because you were to stay humble but what was very moving was that the whole play was about them. It was about how they could relate to my experience. What they were talking about were their own dreams, their own struggles, their own struggles, their own struggles. I cried because I could sense that."

loosely traveling the globe, Jean has traveled to Europe, South America and Africa, but is now criticized for venturing overseas too rarely.

She launched a website to facilitate dialogue with younger Canadians, but was questioned over her decision to let David Suzuki coordinate. She's criticized everyone from the Dalai Lama to George W. Bush, but at such a press conference for making a polemic drug use. She tries to avoid every republican ceremony for soldiers killed in Afghanistan (and calls family members when the contract), but security concerns over her trip to that country were cited for her absence in Parliament Hill. Recent controversy over recognition for a fallen police officer—humanitarianism protesting a proper medal—gave members an opportunity to question "the school of thought" about the nation's threat. "Sherry there after, of course, Jean was dismissed by media."

young age," she says. "In them, when you grow up under regime of dictatorship, you really need to believe that you can fight the system. You believe in the importance of speaking out. You believe in the importance of taking risks. Because that is what fighting for freedom is about."

All conflict involving Jean may come down to this—that she and her colleagues are entirely different languages. "I think I speak out to people and I connect with people through ideas," she says. "It can become emotional but I'm not a preacher. I only connect people and I educate the power of ideas."

This call, in light of the criticism that now passes for objectivity, neither idealism. No one of leadership in this country is identified or maybe even allowed to speak like this. Ottawa is not a place of idealism. And those

made her life come. She's a true girl, man, she is. That's going to."

Jean's experience her daughter consulting her before a visit to Africa. He was worried about her health (he has suffered from fatigue related to a thyroid condition), and worried about her citizenship contact with the crowd that were sure to gather. "Of course, I embraced everyone," she says. "And I never got out. Other people were sick from day one to the end. That doctor came to me and said, 'My goodness, you're really a stone of mine.' And I said, 'Yes, my nature is my stone.'"

Which brings us back to that gallery. After two hours of discussion, the Governor General retired to an adjacent room where space had been denied for several performers. A young man repeated several poems, including that middle-aged white guy in the crowd, looking

CALGARY MEDICI

Will a boom in arts-giving turn the city into a cultural mecca?

BY NICHOLAS ROSEN • They keep quiet, some of these Alberta money people. Calgary Opens recently received a million and charitable donations—but to no fanfare, in per cent more than by the donor. McPhee, the opera's general director, won't even acknowledge the gift. "I don't know who you're hearing those rumors from," he laughs. Back in April, the opera received a sizable donation (McPhee won't disclose the dollar figure) from local oil entrepreneur and age is buff and strong, enough, reportedly, to keep the construction that powered the all-Canadian water pipeline under the year about for a decade.

Other gifts are louder. Well-known photographer J. R. Smith recently gave the Alberta College of Art and Design \$1 million. In September, Calgary financier James McPhee, president of Pangea Energy Trust, donated \$10 million to the Royal Canadian, the largest gift as history. Earlier, in July, Calgary oil tycoon Murray Edwards, vice-chair of Canadian National Resources, gave \$1 million to the University of Saskatchewan's business school, \$1 million (the school is now called the N. Murray Edwards School of Business as a result).

Overall, according to numbers released by StatCan last year, Alberta gave \$177 million more in 2006 to its six deductible charitable donations than in 2005, an increase of over 15 per cent—a bigger jump than any other place in the country. And the newest beneficiaries praise the province's tax and arts institutions. "It speaks to the fact that a lot of money is spent pulling all out of the ground here," says Lance Giffen, ACAD's president and CEO. "There was a question—'What after this?'"

That "what after?" upbraid is the opportunity to turn Calgary into a cultural and intellectual mecca will be a business case. Some see the city as the next big thing, a 21st-century version of Renaissance Florence, where the wealthy Medici family presided over an unprecedented flourishing in the city's intellectual and cultural life. Alberta's

PERCEPTIONS OF A STRAINED RELATIONSHIP WITH HARPER PERSIST, AND SHE'S BEEN CRITICIZED FOR NOT GOING ABROAD ENOUGH



WE FORGET SHE WASN'T EMBRACED AT FIRST, HER LOYALTY TO CANADA WAS QUESTIONED. IT'S ONE SUBJECT THAT SHAKES HER OPTIMISM.

we've focused on the kind of voice that you share and what you want to share. What is shared and what isn't. There are things that I cannot change in this country. This debate is not mine. It does not belong to me. I go for to stay outside the debate and this position is exactly that. You stay outside politics and you represent a moral authority."

Never mind how unusual that a politician would defend the competing forms of her voice and leadership. "I think the difficult part of this was, in my opinion, I fight back. I think on the other points I would be fought back, I would be answered back. In my position as Governor General I couldn't. I couldn't. Because it was not appropriate for me to jump into the arena, become part of the game," she says. "It is outside the rules."

Those around her praise her intellect and her work ethic. They'll hear how she learned Portuguese for a visit to Brazil (in addition to already speaking English, French, Spanish, Italian and Creole). "She never speaks her French," says Sébastien, a former, an advisor who followed her from Radio Canada. "People think she's fragile. But she's strong."

Her critics, though, are not amused. The perception of a strained relationship with the Prime Minister persists. In September, Tom Flanagan, once the Prime Minister's top adviser, questioned her partisan loyalty. He later apologized and came out himself after speaking with several well-informed people. "Her revolutionary presence, Adrienne Clarkson, who brought leadership to the position, was marginalized for too

of the Globe and Mail as the "nation builder of the year" for bringing "a lot of risk and dignity to the job."

"This is one job that, I think it's safe to say, is harder than it looks," says historian David Michélin, a vice principal at Queen's University. In some degree, the vice-principal is bound by contradictory expectations. Carry yourself respectfully and you seem to be too often actually embracing the position. And to resist the Throne Speech such nerve and you are denouncing the institution. In the case of Jean, the situation is complicated precisely by who she is and by the attributed speech to emotion (see the image of her hugging a widow against the Prime Minister shaking hands with her on the moment that has his come to define as Jean Harper as a human being). And by what she says, the century-eyed expressions of herself. "I think really working on someone to believe and to hope in humanity's possibilities is something that inspires me. It's something that I've had I think since I was

AT THE GREAT CUP FINAL IN 2005, where the Edmonton Eskimos beat the Montreal Alouettes, and receiving the 2007 Order of Canada.

who that she is inevitably eye-rolled of the stage. Made no politics do not reward prizes as much as it rewards for imagination. This makes Jean one of two things. She is either hopelessly naive or admirably faith. She is either perfectly suited to the symbolic position she holds or the prize is an act of wishful thinking. In the case of Jean, it's a combination of ideas. Of values. Of ideas. And it's magic. And people crave for that."

ONCE A FELLOW HAITIAN, took her children to see the Governor General in Ottawa and met Jean shortly after. "We all encounter people in positions of power and usually they don't like," she says. "She's a refuge. She's spending to what's happening now. And she

shared. Jean is in the first row, sitting on one, clapping and cheering in place. One of the donors took her by the hand and kissed her to dance a few steps. Jean smiling and laughing. Delighted, the crowd cheered. "Go GG," while a particularly cheering supporter, "You have a husband, right?" Her body guards looked on, became more perplexed.

Eventually the Governor General took her leave. Addressing the crowd, she signed her life. "I love you," she said. "It's been a wonderful evening." She signed the audience that she is "smooching" such then. "Promote that what happened tonight will continue," she murmured, then bowed them a kiss. It took her staffers to escort her from the crowd that swarmed around her as the night her way toward the door. ■

ON THE WEB: A gallery of Michelle Jean in GG www.michellejean.ca/michellejean

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for misleading parents, the inquiry must go back to the beginning—to the involvement of Schreiber, Airbus chairman Franz Josef Schuler and others in financing the wing. Joe Clark movement in the early 1980s. It must investigate why Schreiber was paid to coach money to commissions by his German and French clients on contracts that capriciously forbade such commissions. It must ask how he earned that money, and what explains his remarkable string of successes: Airbus pays him \$20 million, and gave the Air Canada deal, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm pays him \$1 million, and gets the coast-guard helicopter deal, Dornier International pays him \$4 million, and gets Schreiber close to a deal of a highly sought-after vehicle in Cape Breton, a place of great significance to the industry. It must discover who he paid, and for what services. And of course, it must assess how he was permitted such free rein, for so long, without anyone catching on—or perhaps, why anyone in Ottawa looked the other way.

More than a judicial inquiry, then, this has the potential to be a major event in the life of the country. It is not just Mulroney or Schreiber who will be, in a sense, on trial. It is a generation of city, class, a culture. It is a chance to turn Ottawa upside down, to pull the lid off and have a look at its workings, in a way that even Gomery did not quite manage: the massive accumulation of power in the Prime Minister's Office, the celebration of Parliament, the lack of ministerial checks and balances, the sprawling

WE SHOULD EXPECT A HIGHER STANDARD IN PUBLIC LIFE THAN THE MERE AVOIDANCE OF CRIME

door of lobbyists and political molls, the gross politicization of government, the big men and the cronies, the special pleaders and the fixers, and the cronies, the cronies, after 30 years in the capital, became indistinguishable from the people they cover. All of these contributed to this affair, but it could not have happened without a crucial error: negligence.

Regretful exposure to scandal over many years has succeeded in educating public expectations downward. The very structure of our political institutions encourages it. The law has been taught to believe that it is perfectly normal that our upper houses should be used as a patronage dispensing ground—or that it is abnormal, that there is nothing we can do about it—and having learned to justify this to ourselves, and to justify our patricianism, we have become complacent and untruthful. The cynicism, the amorality of Canadian political discourse, is a primary

embler of corruption. It is the oxygen it breathes. Most Canadians don't want an inquiry? That's the best reason to hold one.

TO BE CLEAR, I have no evidence that anyone committed a crime here. This is something of a red herring: we should expect a higher standard of those in public life than mere avoidance of criminal activity, and there is much that an inquiry might teach us that would be useful for the public to know, even if it did not send anyone to jail. Besides, how can we have evidence if we do not investigate? When columnists declare an inquiry will turn up nothing, how do they know? When politicians lose demand that Schreiber be sent to Germany immediately, before an inquiry has even been held, what's their rush? Whatever happened to simple human curiosity?

The presumption of innocence does not require us to be deaf, blind and stupid. Just because we do not have proof of something does not mean we should not ask questions about it. And nothing about Mulroney's behaviour, or his subsequent explanations of it, can give us comfort.

If we believe the former prime minister, he was hired by Schreiber to sell armoured vehicles that hadn't been made in a factory that hadn't been built with federal funding that was never granted to officials he hasn't named (other than the dead). They did not discuss the deal beforehand, Schreiber simply showed up at one of their meetings—for coffee, you recall—with \$75,000 in cash.

Mulroney neither told Schreiber, nor issued him with a cheque. He provided no written reports on his activities, filed no expense claims, and in the end, sold no vehicles. He spent none of the cash he was paid (except for the expenses he didn't disclose, the records of which he has since destroyed), nor deposited it in a bank, but simply stored it in a safe in his Montreal home and a safety deposit box in New York City—where it remained for six years. He paid no taxes on it at that time, then abruptly decided to pay tax on all of it, including the expenses, after Schreiber's arrest on charges of fraud and bribery. And he told no one outside his immediate circle about any of this, even after the existence of the cash payments became known.

For someone who has "nothing to hide," Mulroney seems to have gone to great lengths to hide it. Not only did he leave no paper trail to assist his denials with Schreiber, he neglected to mention them in two days of testimony in 1996, preliminary to his bid to fight against the government of Canada. He allegedly pleaded with Schreiber to keep

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there a secret, only in a hotel-room meeting in Zurich in 1998, a second time in a telephone call to Schreiber's lawyer in 1999. And when at length the lawyer and writer Wilfried Knappe got word of them, he alternately pleaded with and threatened him, even evoking Knappe's Jewish heritage as if to establish a bond between them. ("I defended the Jews and not abused for that.")

When people are behaving this surreptitiously, we are entitled to be suspicious. I don't believe Maloney was trying to cheat on his taxes, or

thousands of dollars onto the dump Clark campaign, including funding the theft of 10,000, perhaps hundreds, of anti-Clark delegate cards to the 1981 leadership review in Winnipeg. We know not just because Schneider has said so: we have the bill of sale on a half interest in a property owned by a company controlled by Frank Moser, fundraiser for the anti-Clark forces and for Maloney's leadership bid, purchased for \$169,000 in 1982 by a Schneider-controlled company.

dropped it. They only formally launched an investigation in the summer of 1995, following media reports of the secret commission deal. But without Schimber's Swiss bank records, they had nothing.

And that was it: they were getting arrested, they believed to a cradled drafted letter of request seeking access to Schreiber's account was somehow linked to the mafia. Mulrenney's press campaign effectively hobbled the investigation for some time, and it never fully recovered. The lead investigator was taken off the case after not being able to allege that he had told a reporter about the letter of request, and eventually left the force. The reporter was later exposed as a confidential informant. They would not pin anything to Schreiber's bank records until 1980.

If the RCMP bungled an investigation, the ethics committee's was doomed from the start. The committee lacks either the tools or the competence to conduct a serious inquiry. Few of its members are lawyers, and most have chosen their careers more concerned with parties than with justice than honesty.

ing out the truth. Their questioning is generally unfocused, lacks follow up, and cannot be sustained, under committee rules, for more than 10 minutes at a time.

Incompetent cops: Complicated needs. Work/life concerns. A public inquiry is not just about not just to tell us what we don't know about Airbus, but to tell us why we don't know it. Yes, it's nearly 24 years after the fact that the public interest in what our government has no statute of limitations. We need to know we were played for suckers, and if we are still being played for suckers. That's one part challenge for the inquiry, but for all of us dealing about it and which is not home. This is a test of our democracy: this is our job—and we need to be up to it. It's long and boring and hard to follow? Tough. Do your job.

Mostly, we need to send a message—not just to those who may have been taking Schrieber's money thin, but to those who might be content placing similar actions now that he's not with you cover your tracks, how ever far you run, however long you stall, we will get you. Or shall we wait to find out 20 years from now about things we might have prevented today? ■

ON THE WEB: For more Andrew Coyne, visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/andrewcoyne/

Quality of life in Canada is a relative thing

BY JORDAN TUMM • In the 18 years since the United Nations began publishing annual Human Development Index rankings, Canada has nine times been the world's highest-rated country. Two consecutive achieve-ranks on the UN charts, which measure things like life expectancy and literacy, makes an especially good story. The country's native leaders, however, have always maintained that the survey obscures the fact that Canada's indigenous people have a quality of life that's on average like the below that enjoyed by the rest of the population.

A new study published in the peer-reviewed online journal *International Health and Human Rights* attempts to measure whether the social, economic and health status of Aboriginals in Canada and three other countries improved relative to the rest of the population between 1990 and 2001.

On the surface, the Canadian numbers are encouraging. "The gap has been narrowing," says Dan Keeney, a director of strategic research and analysis director for the department. But the gap is still wide. The life expectancy of an Indian or Northern Aboriginal is 73 years, compared with 82 years for the rest of the country. Of the two countries, the United States has the highest life expectancy at 77.5 years (although the life expectancy of the general population in Canada surpassed that of the United States in 2004).

in the US (and to a lesser extent, New Zealand), the margins between native and non-native populations in categories like adult literacy and non-economic health have diminished since 1990. Australia, on the other hand, has seen the gap between its Aboriginal population and the rest of the country actually widen in the last 16 years.

Reasons against arguing too much into the merits, however, specifically, he cautions against the margin being read as absolute indicators of native people's progress. "Part of the difficulty is that the widening of the general population to the poor groups, and with the widening of the poor groups, is not a very hard to make substantive progress in terms of narrowing the gap when you overall group, in that case the general population, again comes in the low bracket."

Who decides whose rights were violated?

BY NANCY MACDONALD - Winnipeg's proposed Canadian Museum For Human Rights, which, since its inception, has sparked more than its share of controversy, is suddenly at the centre of another round of squabbling. In April, the \$190-million museum finally received federal funding, bringing a long-standing federal promise that national museums



BEING FAIR: Conflict is erupting over what goes inside the museum

tions by Ottawa-based Nawa, its organizers are launching a round of public consultations designed to help them with the prickly matter of what should be featured inside. The museum—first proposed by the late media mogul Izzy Asper and spearheaded by Winnipeg's Asper Foundation—must figure out how to commemorate highly sensitive disputes, like the brutal Palestinian conflict, without provoking charges of favoritism.

Stated for a 2000 opening, the museum will house permanent exhibits recognizing the struggles of African Americans and the African population of 1793. There will be temporary exhibits on residential schools, compliance with reconstructed demographics, and differences of opinion as to what education is reversible. To help guide the museum, experts—such as the University of New Brunswick's Constantine Pasaris, past chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission—will be brought onboard to help the museum deal with teacher/guide issues. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, for example, is raising money for a permanent exhibit commemorating the Ukrainian loss of 7312-25, which killed several million Ukrainians in the U.S. and elsewhere.

More hurdles for B.C.'s most famous twins

MY COOLIE CAREFREE • Kevin and Tamara Hayes, the engaged twins from Vernon, B.C., have come a long way since they were born 14 months ago. Along with becoming the faces of surreal musical armadillos, the pair—who are connected at the back of the head and share brain tissue—have developed their own distinct personalities, and even seem to be capable of reading each other's thoughts, their grandmother, Louise Moffat, told *Men* last in a recent interview shortly after their first birthday.

The two have also overcome some staggering odds—many compromised are stillborn and of those who survive, 75 per cent don't live longer than 24 hours, but this month Krone and Tetewa will face another big hurdle when they undergo a complicated brain surgery to try to correct heart problems the two share.

Tatiana's heart does most of the work for both of them. That has weakened her—she too recently had the flu—and put her heart under too much strain. To lessen the strain on the aorta, doctors plan to block one blood vessel in Tatiana's chest in an effort to redirect blood flow through other shared vessels. If they can get more blood flowing into Krizia's heart, she'll be able to work.

Separating the two girls is not possible—it would cause too much damage given how interconnected their brains are. McKay says that when one is watching TV, the other, without looking at the screen, is somehow able to see what's happening. "We've noticed that they also seem to be able to hear it out if they want," she says. "And other than that, the twins still do typical nursery things, and their grandmothers, like light-colored toys, Messia and Krista learned to crawl to each other."

The operation, which will be done in Vancouver, is a risky HKXtreme doesn't take on her own blood flow, "it can cause seizures and death," her mother, Polina Strano, told the CBC in December. "It's a very scary but necessary thing to do for the girl." ■



It is also the kind of place

of knowing what her situation might be, she says. "I don't want to be on the other party in the election. To pretend things could be solved by any administration, the country's fragility. We can't know how things will move toward peace now. All we can know is that farther away Asia."



ON THE BRINK OF CHAOS

With the leading moderate party in tatters and democratic reforms failing, Pakistan's prognosis isn't good. Can civil war be avoided? BY ADMAN Z. KHAN

In the sudden flash and clamor of the most disputable act one human can ever commit against his fellows, a suicide bomber splashed Pakistan into the worst crisis of its 66-year history. The assassination of Benazir Bhutto, leader of Pakistan's popular left Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and one of the nation's precious few moderate political leaders, has left the world shuddering and Pakistan in turmoil. For over a century, Islamabad to Karachi, the nation's southern coastal hub, towns were on fire, rioting and protest on smoldering spurs; government buildings, police cars with rocks, and rioting police stations in a burn of fury that some analysts feared could push the nuclear-armed country into civil war. Yet, Benazir's death may be the end of what was feared to occur as it cancelled much of the violence that had been fanned by a military dictatorship. It was a transformation that has run itself into the ground, in part because of the inherent incompatibility of dictatorship and democracy—and what has to be considered a massive victory for Islamic methods believed responsible for the crime.

But can Pakistan pull itself back from the brink? The prognosis is not good. With three more busy days away, if they will be held at all, and President Pervez Musharraf increasingly isolated, the chances of finding a quick fix to a monumental dilemma are dimming. There are calls to postpone the vote, but such a move risks alienating an already cynical population. Going ahead is a double-edged sword while, even ignoring the realities on the ground—namely conditions that make free and fair elections virtually impossible.

Either way, the advantage goes to the extremists, who have proved that they can easily derail Pakistan's democratic reforms. According to some analysts, the fact that they were able to get close enough to Benazir to carry out the assassination speaks of a new level of complicity among Pakistan's security forces, and a relationship that has been alleged by Pakistan's media. Benazir herself complained that some elements of the military and intelligence services wanted her dead and were working with Islamic militants to make it happen. That most importantly, is killing Benazir, militants have also revealed the fundamental weakness in Pakistan's political system. Call it the Saviour Complex.

Unlike Canada and other Western democracies, where local politics has played a significant role in the success or failure of a party, Pakistani politics are still very firmly rooted in the role of personality. It dominates the country, with the requisite emphasis placed on the party's leader, and votes cast based almost solely on his or her popularity. Cutting off that head usually means disabling the entire party corpse, as was the case in 1999 when the military division of the day—Gen. Musharraf—disbanded the prime minister he deposed, exiled his successor, Pervez Musharraf, Benazir's father and the founder of the PPP. That led to nearly a decade during which Pakistan established itself in the pre-eminent global role of Islamic ultimatum. The legacy of these years is what threatens Pakistan, and by extension the world's stability today. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was perhaps Pakistan's first, and certainly its most influential, nuclear democrat. His death's shadow fell on a period of institutional decline in which Pakistan's parliament became a mere recreation of the military establishment, and slogan of an extreme victory became a cornerstone of Pakistan society.

Today's parallels are unsettling, and potentially even more devastating. On Nov. 3, 2007, Musharraf, still in his dual role of president-general, declared an emergency, blaming the recently elected Supreme Court judges of meddling in politics (most analysts saw this as a desperate power grab as evidence of an anticipated court ruling that would have legitimized his Oct. 6th election as president).

PLAYERS In a national tragedy (clockwise from left), Benazir's supporters demand Musharraf's resignation; protesters with Benazir's coffin; Benazir on a campaign stop; Akbar and Khan campaign in a bid to help

During the emergency, Musharraf's authority was challenged. The Pakistan constitution to that date was amended, asked what had become an independent Supreme Court, replaced it with an obsequious alternative, jailed dissenters who dared to demonstrate against his rule, and all but dismantled the media. After his hand picked Supreme Court approved his new presidential term and under intense U.S. pressure, Musharraf grudgingly stepped down ahead of the military, lifted the emergency and set elections for Jan. 8, a vote most observers would believe was a sham. Benazir Bhutto, recently returned from exile, had a power sharing agreement with Musharraf. When that deal fell apart, she decided to contest the elections, albeit "under protest."

They, Benazir Bhutto was assassinated. While very few people saw Musharraf's hand in her demise, there's little doubt that, with her out of the way, one major obstacle to his dominance over Pakistan politics—the PPP—was crumbled. The PPP has ever demonstrated an ability to stand out on its own as a political party. Benazir was itself ordered to step down for life, and she gave herself a life sentence for the life of her own mind. With her gone, and some standing in the wings to take her place, the party's situation looks uncertain at best. "In the moment, we are mourning her death," Zinnat Zaid, a senior and member of the PPP told Al Jazeera's shortly after the assassination. "Nothing will likely be decided by the party."

Nothing will likely be decided by the party. Nothing ruled the PPP with an iron fist, even

BHUTTO'S KILLING IS A MASSIVE SETBACK TO THE FALTERING PROCESS OF REFORM, PERHAPS THE DEATH BLOW



during her eight years of self-imposed exile in Britain and Dubai to escape arrest on corruption charges, allegations that she vehemently denied. Her loss, party members say, has left the party in disarray. The Benazir legacy for the PPP leadership—Musharraf, Akbar Fajri, and Asif Ali Zardari—both have their share of problems. Zardari, the most vocal critic of Benazir, was the logical successor in terms of the party's power structure, is, like Benazir, a member of Pakistan's southern coastal class of landowning families. Plagued by accusations of corruption—which have dogged the

Bhuttos for the past three decades—finds it a tough choice for positions of power. Akbar, a Cambridge-educated lawyer who has led the protest marches against Musharraf over the past year and remains under house arrest, does carry a great deal of moral weight. His relationship with Benazir, however, was rocky, with her accusing Akbar's influence among the masses of lawyers and politicians. As a result, party members loyal to Bhutto will likely have a difficult time accepting his leadership.

To add to the problems, party members

advise they had no contingency plan in place in case Islamic militants succeeded in killing this leader, an extremist had repeatedly promised to do and nearly accomplished in a devastating suicide attack that left at least 164 people dead on Oct. 16, 2002, during Bush's procession in Karachi when she returned from exile. If the Jan. 8 election is still held, choosing a successor will necessarily interfere with any campaigning.

Some argue that the PPP could in fact benefit from the "anarchy disease" that this would cast over the basic politics facing the PPP and the rest of Pakistan's moderate-to-conservative movement. The PPP is muddled and in crisis. The only other viable alternative, Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League, is beset by its own close ties with religious fundamentalists. And so the pool of potential standard-bearers of democracy has dwindled to a puddle. One possibility, former cricket-turned-politician Imran Khan, is still central and a political force, although he has shown signs of coming of age during the crisis that preceded Bush's assassination.

But, meanwhile, there is great danger as the momentum toward chaos that Bush's death has exacerbated. Popular support for Musharraf has evaporated, with many now blaming him for not doing enough to protect Pakistan. That perception, regardless of whether it is grounded in fact, is the catalyst that fueled Pakistan's major crises into inside grounds. It will take a massive effort to avert this, in which, a situation that only exists in the director of Pakistan's largest religious-fundamentalist circles. "Musharraf must be leading the charge," says Munawar Iqbal, a journalist with Pakistan's *News* newspaper. "Giving up his weapons has made a moral debt for him to do as he pleases. He must now actually try to be a politician."

Musharraf could try to create a broad-based coalition of parties, and establish a political consensus to rebuild the now devastated democratic process. It would be a difficult exercise for someone who, until recently, was at the head of what was not effectively a military dictatorship. But in spite of the intense animosity between some political parties, some sort of rapprochement might be unavoidable if moderate Pakistanis hope to face down the extremist threat in its midst. The alternative that some observers see is fragmentation, a race-to-the-bottom, free-for-all, possibly even devastating religious war, getting opposition across against the military, the military against Islamic radicals, and the radicals against the military in a vicious cycle. That could be a tragedy for Pakistan's 165 million people and a global problem the international community will be hard-pressed to solve. ■



BLINK AND IT'S OVER

Will the earth still move for candidates if the primaries climax early?

BY LIZCA CR. SAVAGE ■ At primary season's end, voters in the early states of Iowa and New Hampshire barely have time to shake off their New Year's hangovers before the snow and cold on road and in show their preferred candidates in the first presidential primary contest ever. They'll have time to put their winter clothes away, and pull them out again, before the actual election rolls around in June.

It is to be that nominees were picked during political seasons in the snow-filled backrooms at end of summer national con-

HUCKABEE is the pick to keep those picking 18th August on the early states.

ventions, regardless of the outcome of primaries. But the power of party bosses began to be handed over to primary voters after the 2004 election, when Democrats' empowered party voters to tell convention delegates what they could do to support. In the 1970s, a side became clear that the caucus states, such as Iowa and New Hampshire, would get the most attention and spending from candidates—and could even catapult them to victory. A severe case of "New Hampshire creep" set in, and states began to wish their primaries moved every four years. The first snow came in 2004, when John Kerry's margin from a tight defeat to grab the Democratic nomination by February on the strength of his performance in Iowa and New Hampshire. Larger states were outraged that they'd had little say, and began lobbying each other for earlier dates in a bid to force him to get a date threatened to push the 2008 primaries back into 2007. "There is a lot of blame and constant that some states are favored over others," says Ryan O'Donnell, a spokesman for Fair Vote, an election reform think tank based in Maryland that advocates for a redesign of the primary system.

Some states were to disappear to get to early that they broke primary caucuses to caucus on order, and now have the best of delegates. For example, the big battle ground state of Florida will lose its Democratic delegates and half of its Republican delegates for moving its previously scheduled March primary to Jan. 29. But the result of

all this is a front-loaded calendar with several primaries in January, followed by a month of early voting on Feb. 5 dubbed "Super Super Tuesday" and featuring more than 20 states after which most delegates to the convention will have been assigned. All told, seven states before the Democratic convention on Aug. 25 in Denver and the Republican convention on Sept. 14 in Saint Paul, Minn.

We are a biggy about this turn of events. Not the candidates and their staffs, who have spent most of the holidays campaigning, and have dropped more than \$12 million in Iowa and New Hampshire trying to capture the big bonus of an early win. Not the people of the early states, who have been voting potential candidates since, more or less, the last election ended—in what has become pretty much a permanent campaign season.

The parties have little to gain by picking their candidates so early. "You could wind up with a situation where a candidate looks good and fits the moment in January, but doesn't turn out to fit the moment anymore by July, let alone November," says Andy Beach, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College in California and co-author of the book *The Front-Loading Problem in Presidential Nominations*. "Another problem is, voters wind up getting bored."

The candidates are also aware how best to play the system. Most campaigns are planning their dates on the early states. The power boy for dates is Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas, who has been doing little funding. He rose from obscurity to the top of the polls after his strong per-

formance in the Aug. 7 Ames, Iowa, straw poll. On the other hand is former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, who has all but been dislodged by Iowa and New Hampshire and a snaking campaign on doing well in the Feb. 5 states, thanks to the high national name recognition and powerful fundraising base.

"The Huckabee campaign now represents the problem outside system," says Josh Wines, a scholar at the Center for Politics, a think tank in Washington. "He is doing very well in Iowa and South Carolina [where he early state]. The question is whether he is going to have the resources to go beyond that in Feb. 5. There is no time for him to build that support and fundraise the way he needs to."

remains a vote for a delegate to the convention, not a direct vote for a candidate.

But the 2004 Democratic convention in Chicago, in the midst of the Vietnam War, changed all that. There were riots outside the meeting and rumors arose. When the party bosses gave the nomination to Hubert Humphrey, who had not contested any primary in caucuses, the anti-war supporters of Eugene McCarthy were outraged, and the party struck a commission that overhauled the system, allowing the party's grassroots to elect how delegates would vote. Republicans eventually followed suit on many of the reforms.

Iowa and New Hampshire's status and influ-

***** 'FRONT-LOADING' CREATES IN EFFECT AN ENDLESS CAMPAIGN SEASON *****



HOLDING OUT for "Super Super Tuesday"

On the other hand, a media frenzy for the early winner could also determine the Feb. 5 elections. "The danger is, someone does well in the early going and builds up a wave of momentum, and before anyone has a chance to register second thoughts, the whole thing is basically over," says William Mayer, an associate political science professor at North Central University and Bush's co-author.

The current predicament is the same as consequence of not moving earlier: 40 years ago that extended to give all voters more say. Back in 1912, theodore Roosevelt ran for president and won most of the primaries that were held. But when he got to the convention, machine politics took over and he lost the nomination. "It was shipping and sailing. Politics had got in a bit with sugar choosing the candidate," says O'Donnell. Back then, convention delegates were assigned to support the same candidate that was sending them to the convention. But in Iowa, as in some states, it was not even possible for a voter to indicate a preferred candidate in a primary ballot (which was and still

is) or in a first in the main caucus about by evolution, not by design. Bush warned Monroe occurred in 1978, when Jimmy Carter used his victory in Iowa to help convince him to the nomination, setting an example that future campaigns followed. Now, as candidates have grasped the importance of a strong early start, the two candidates don't want to let go. "They have a very large, cured political vacuum who loved the position," says Mayer. "These are the only candidates and most party chaps who have come to accept it as a part of the natural order that they will get calls from Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Clinton and John Edwards, and they fight like mad to reach their position—and so far they have succeeded."

Everyone agrees that the Iowa and the good people of New Hampshire are wonderful at that they do not welcome candidates to their Fourth of July parties, they open their homes to the most marginal hopefuls, read the small print of the platform, and faithfully march in to debate. But they aren't the ideal place to test for a presidential choice. "Iowa and New Hampshire are among the least diverse ethnically and racially in the country," notes Wang. Their policies have elevated the importance of local issues, such as ethanol and farm subsidies, to the detriment of others. "What about land and water usage in the West? What about mass transit? These are huge issues but they are not talked about," says O'Donnell.

There have been single attempts to deal with these things, even some to address Iowa and New Hampshire's status and influ-

A NEW PLAYBOOK

Playboy remakes itself as a lifestyle empire, a shower curtain at a time

BY JOHN INTURI: In mid-September, Playboy opened its largest retail unit ever, on London's Oxford Street. Spread over three glassy floors are dresses and formal wear, accessories and jewelry, and, as you might suspect, more than a few pieces of feminine clothing to be enjoyed after dark. One item you won't find anywhere in the 4,000-sq.-foot superstore, however, is the very thing that started it all: the iconic American gale magazine that launched an entire industry. That isn't a British edition, explains Chantal Heffer, daughter of the original Playboy, and now the company's CEO. Of course, this seemingly glaring omission may also have something to do with the fact that Playboy expects about 80 per cent of the customers who come through the sliding glass doors of the new boutique to be women, not exactly the magazine's traditional target market.

To those who think of this as a company built on naked pictures of beauteous beauties, the current business model will be almost unrecognizable. This is a new Playboy, for different times. The Internet has flooded the world with nude photos, not only taking their novelty, but driving subscription sales of dollar-a-month expensive glossy magazines. This means a new age of soft-core pornography: the girl is the daughter, a one-time bunny herself, so good at global lifestyle empire around the iconic bunny ears, one sensory shower or even at a time. The brand, once famed as a selling to soccer moms and college girls (that's what happens, says Robert Bostman, a marketing professor at York University's Schulich School of Business, when "you're 15 earnings are making you a bit more sophisticated than advertising."

The strategy clearly makes sense on the balance sheet. Playboy's latest operating profit of \$246.1 million in its most recent quarter. That's a 17 per cent increase over last year, making it the fastest growing part of the business. Its competitors, the publishing giant Time Inc. and its affiliates, (Playboy currently has fewer than 10 million subscribers)—about half the number from its peak years in the '70s (Heffer says her company still boasts a billion-dollar worth of consumer products a year, not including magazines or DVD's). And while the media industry is split

30/70 men, the consumer products are tilted 50/50 in favor of women.

Heffer's focus on licensing began almost immediately after she moved into the corner office in 1988. In fact, one of her first moves as chairman and CEO of the family business was to stop production of the fuzzy disc and as frustration that Playboy was making at the time. The company has distribution deals in more than 190 countries (the magazine, by comparison, is published in 24 nations), and eight of its own retail stores, including locations in Bangkok, Melbourne, Kuala Lumpur, and now London. And the bunny merch line is available in several high-end department stores including Bloomingdale's, Harney Nichols and Selfridges. Playboy continues Jerry Cowe, Diesel, and Calvin Klein in competition. Heffer has turned the iconic logo from a dollar sign into a luxury brand.

But what comes comes to buy a brand name goes with busty buns? Heffer points out the women were always a bigger part of the Playboy demographic than they appeared to be. "Think

in the day, women read that magazine, the clams, and couples went together to the Playboy run night clubs. And the first lesson that The Girl Next Door, the reality show starring her father, is currently the company's chief creative officer and editor-in-chief, and his three girlfriends, Holly, Wendy and Bridget, is the highest rated show on E! thanks to an audience that is predominantly single women of 18-year-olds. These days it helps that Playboy logo quite brings in comparison to all the hard-core material online. "It's become kind of cute and cuddly," says Cowe. "Women find the Playboy brand a fairly safe and playful expression of female sexuality."

It goes without saying that the Playboy generation is far more comfortable with sex and sexuality—something the company is

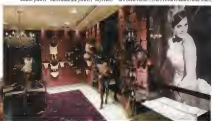
MONEY WASHER Even as Heffer makes through his 40s, his daughter is turning the fading 1960s logo into a luxury brand



trying in its effort to go after a younger audience of men and women. Playboy (U.S. and other social networking sites for college kids, launched in August as a competitor for Facebook—don't think about it) instead of sex, she is playing up the notion of exclusivity, a hallmark of the Playboy lifestyle, by having anyone without an adult email address "Playboy isn't about sexuality as much as it's about power—sexual power," says Bob-

Heffer has already asked about plans to open markets in Russia, Latin America and the Caribbean at a rate of about one per year after that.

It's all about selling a lifestyle, says Paul Wolf, and putting your company's logo on things that make sense. "Being able to grab the best of your niche space was definitely why," he says. Playboy's logo. Can't you, he says, be believable. As an expert and creative force,



THE NEW TARGET MARKET IS SOCCER MOMS AND COLLEGE GIRLS



CEO Chantal Heffer (above) has opened retail stores in London and Melbourne

which Playboy likes to see. They have not seen for Playboy going forward. Sex products, on the other hand, aren't. "The world of Playboy could be a lot of things," says Playboy. "But to a certain degree, it would be a degradation of the brand." Playboy has moved clear of sex, too. "It makes it more explicit. And they're not explicit."

Kantner, however, accuses Playboy of selling out after week on the part and a follow-up in nearly everything they've done recently, including their online and social networking efforts. And he, too, has "whoa, whoa, whoa, do they want to go to the point taking a couple of miles back and forth a bad thing. Some kind of self." Kantner says high-end events like art and entertainment clubs, appealing to females as much as males, may be a good market for Playboy, to stop things up a bit.

For now, at least, Heffer has her eyes set on India, China, eastern Europe, Russia and Latin America. And not everything will be so quickly done. She's a hand under Playboy's

corporate umbrella, has a strong hold on the lucrative porn and adult business, and in last month Playboy signed a deal to advance its adult business in Europe, where, unlike the U.S. operation, adult photography and video clips are in demand. The deal could turn into a pretty big business for Playboy. Heffer estimates that more than 100 million will be a pretty wide range on children porn by 2013. If then, the number of users will have increased from about 40 million to nearly 100 million—a quarter of whom will be living in India.

Heffer's worst enemy is taking things too far. That could risk alienating the new customer base. Right now, he says, Playboy has a kind of "it's fine boundaries," the ability to stamp on legs on nearly everything and make it work. He's almost certain, "You're not going to see the bunny ears on diapers," he says. He, however, can't think of many good reasons for the brand to keep its famous logo publication on the newspapers. After all, nobody is buying Playboy. Kantner and others because of the monthly magazine featuring top models. If it did, he says, all you'd likely have to worry about is "a bunch of old-age 11-year-olds." Heffer doesn't. "I think that's a pretty long way away," she says, adding that "entertainment magazine," she didn't want Playboy to be. Heavy duty—will it be around in a decade. After all, this is the brand's heritage. And nearly three million monthly subscribers in still a substantial place.

And all this talk about the future, let's not forget that Hugh Hefner is 81. And with a handful of children, including Jennifer Lopez, Brooke Depp and Britney Spears (for what that's worth these days) have been photographed wearing Playboy clothing, and then on from still show up in the mansion in L.A. to party like it's 1960, 1970, the most important spokesperson, without question, has always been Hef. So can the brand live on after its creator? Kantner thinks so. "The long as they don't close up the mansion and take away all the pretty girls," he says, "everything will stay pretty much the same. It'll find a way even more iconic status than ever alive." If not, at least the bunny ears are timeless. ■

ON THE WEB: A selection of Playboy's best sex scenes: www.usmagazine.com/playboy

WINDOW WASHER SURFS TO SURVIVAL

Alonso Moreno should be alive When the window-cleaning platform he was working on in New York City collapsed, Moreno lost 47 stories. An amazed doctor said, "100 per cent of people who fall four to five stories die." Moreno somehow managed to ride a piece of the platform like a surfboard, which helped him escape death albeit with severe injuries. The way he clings to the wreckage, however, Moreno's teacher, Edgar, died in the fall.

EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK



PREDATORS AT LARGE Joseph Fredericks (far left), on parole, killed an 11-year-old boy, Peter Whitmore, a repeat offender, wasn't on the registry. He twice molested two boys.

'A NATIONAL EMBARRASSMENT'

Canada's sex offender registry is so flawed that hundreds of molesters and other criminals have gone missing

BY MICHAEL FRISCOLANTI

When he lived in British Columbia, Peter Whitmore followed the rules. He didn't go anywhere near a pool or a play ground. He didn't talk to children, online or otherwise. And he went to bed every night at 11 o'clock. For once in his life—for an entire year, in fact—Whitmore was a law-abiding pedophile. It was hard to believe. A notorious child molester, Whitmore's reputation is full of rape and sexual crimes and angry parents. In 1997, he was convicted of sexually assaulting four boys, eight days after his release, he abducted a young girl. In 2003, Toronto residents tried to run him off of 56th, but he made an impression plus on national television. "I have come over when I do," he'd brag. "I have been found in a hotel with a 13-year-old boy. A year later, while back on probation, police discovered a "rage kit" in his posses-

sion items gloves, duct tape and photographs of kids. A judge shipped him back to jail. Yet by the summer of 2006, it seemed as though the system finally had a firm grip on Peter Whitmore. After he served every last day of his three-year sentence, authorities shipped him with a Section 81, a court order that imposed a long list of strict living conditions. He wasn't thrilled, but for 12 straight months, the infamous pedophile did as he was told.

Until June 2006, when Whitmore planned a trip to Montevideo, Alta. The RCMP even issued a press release, warning that a "significant risk" to "male and female children" was coming to town for a three-day visit. What more never returned home. By the time police found him again, in a motel near boys—14 and 10—and both kidnapped and raped. Canadian news ran the story. How could authorities lose track of such a dangerous criminal? The answer is complicated, but one problem is

clear: Canada's national sex offender registry. Unveiled in 2000 by the Liberal Liberals, the NSOR was supposed to be a state-of-the-art surveillance tool, a nationwide database that can tell police which rapists and pedophiles live in which neighborhoods. But Whitmore—a man so dangerous that the National Parole Board considered him a "100 per cent" guarantee to reoffend—was not listed on the system.

The man had finally ended up in a halfway house in rural Saskatchewan. A few days later, far away from the camera and the talk show, the RCMP wrote a series of confidential memos to Stockwell Day, Stephen Harper's minister of public safety and emergency preparedness. The memos warned to make sure the new Conservative government, elected six months earlier, understood exactly when it inherited a sex offender registry in desperate need of repair.

Pointing to "a number of weaknesses and gaps," the RCMP urged "an immediate review" of the Sex Offender Information Registration Act. The legislation that created the database "The more media attention, including criticism of the [registry], provides an opportu-

nity for the government to review the legislation and make the necessary system changes before an incident occurs that highlights one or more of the concerns raised."

Nothing was done. Sixteen months after those memos were written—and three years after the system was introduced—Canada's sex offender registry remains dysfunctional. Registration isn't even mandatory. A prosecutor must ask a judge to make default entries to the database, and since the law took effect, barely half of all convicted sex offenders have been ordered to sign up. The rest are thousands of criminals, child pornography and other lascivious criminals—any under 18 who are not on the list.

The registry can barely keep track of all sex offenders who are ordered to comply. In one case, 16,249 names appear on the system, 3,270 are considered non-compliant. Some of these people never registered at all. Others have failed to check in an required—317 in Ontario, 361 in Alberta, 134 in British Columbia. Quebec is the worst, by far. The province allows up to 1,594 registered offenders. One in five (318) are missing.

According to internal government documents obtained by *Maclean's* under the Access to Information Act, the agency is crippled by one major problem: Ottawa's obsession with privacy. The feds are so determined to protect the rights of convicted sex offenders

that most police officers are not allowed to access the system. Forget the general public. "It's not a good idea to put this information in the hands of the public," says Paul Gillespie, former head of the Toronto police's child exploitation unit. "This is a national embarrassment."

Every aspect of the registry benefits the sex offenders, not the public or the police. The database can only be used to help solve a crime, not prevent one. If a young girl goes missing, police are not allowed to search the registry for a matching description. If she is usually associated, then it's a good idea to tell police. They must phone the RCMP.

A registered offender has to inform police if he (or she) is taking a vacation, but only if it's longer than two weeks. Anything less than that (a 10-day stay in Thailand, perhaps) doesn't need to be reported. Even worse, if an offender does admit he's going to Thailand—a link of child prostitution—the cops are not allowed to warn the authorities.

Agencies within Canada are no better at sharing information. Amazingly, the Correctional Service of Canada refuses to tell police officials when federal inmates, in other words, the RCMP has copies when hundreds of sex offenders are assigned to register.

The system is so poorly designed that the RCMP should be drilled that not a single person is compliant. It's like a typewriter in the basement. The computer doesn't even record an offender's most recent date. That's about it. That's a good thing, by the way, because if a sex offender is scheduled to register, in Canada, agencies are allowed to know the location of every single one. The department of motor vehicles knows where your driver's license is set to expire. But

the national sex offender registry cannot tell the RCMP the most basic fact of all: who is a sex offender due to check in.

To complicate the RCMP has been forced to create separate, hard copy tracking systems—Bulldozers, for example, or an Excel spreadsheet. "It's shocking," says Page Bawich, who manages the Alberta registry center. "We have identified, over and over again, who is a potential threat."

The feds have listened. Successful governments, both Liberal and Conservative,

have repeatedly ignored the sex offenders. When the registry was first, the law included a mandatory two-year review, a chance for Parliament to hear from stakeholders and make any necessary improvements. That process should have happened at the end of 2006. It didn't. A year later, there is still no sign of a review on Prime Minister Harper's agenda.

Police found Christopher Stephenson's 13-year-old body on Father's Day afternoon, 1998. The boy's killer, a parolee pedophile named Joseph Fredericks, led the cops to the crime scene. He told the detectives who hauled him into the car that he spent his victim's a nearby mall, sitting on a bench while his name and later hauled through a store. Armed with a knife, Fredericks dragged the boy to his apartment, molested him repeatedly, then slit his throat and left him to die near a set of train tracks in Burlington, Ont.

Jim Stephenson spent that Father's Day at the mosque, identifying his only son. Two weeks later he was back at the hospital daunted, watching Christopher's Little League team again. "I didn't know how to cope," he says. "It was a horrible, horrible ending to a boy's life, and to destroy me all had."

Today, Christopher would be 13 years old. Instead, his family has spent over a decade coping with a loss that no parent can ever pretend. Jim and his wife, Anne, could do nothing but search to a judge, ordered Fredericks to spend the rest of his life behind bars. They pulled the horror three years later, when their son's killer was stabbed to death by a fellow inmate. That same week of increasing testimony at his request they paid every aspect of Christopher's murder.

When it ended, the coroner's jury refused 71 recommendations. One item—number 46—suggested Ottawa to create an all-inclusive registry of high-risk offenders. Fredericks' life was a long list of sexual crimes. The jury believed that if a registry existed the day Christopher disappeared, police could have obtained an immediate list of suspect living in the neighborhood. Maybe those detectives would have knocked on Fredericks' door while the boy was still alive.

In 1999, 2003, and every 10 years after that, a registry or even in the process of developing one. Some European countries were also on board. Yet in Ottawa, Jim Stephenson's life was never not forgotten. By 1996, six years after the coroner's request, Canada was no closer to having a sex-offender registry.

But Ottawa was. The Conservatives, led by Mike Harris, was studying the idea of a provincial registry. The Harris team asked the Stephensons for input, and as the sig-

MICHAEL FRISCOLANTI FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL

PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

remembered, they wouldn't be family *anything* else. "Can we name the law after your son?" My reaction, upon honesty, was: "No bloodily was I even the remainder of Christopher every time I hear somebody talk about this legislation," Jim recalls. "But my wife felt very differently about it. She thought that naming the legislation in Christopher's memory would mean that something positive would come out of what he had suffered." Jim released On April 21, 2000, "Christopher's Law" took effect, making Ontario the first jurisdiction in Canada to bestow a sex offender's name.

On a strictly technical level, the Ontario registry is undeniably impressive. Inclusion is mandatory, and sex-crime investigators anywhere in the province can see exactly how many people in their region are compliant (offenders must update in every year and every time they move). If a person is not seen once over the year, the system automatically issues a red flag. It also records dozens of different descriptive features, such as height, weight, nickname and tattoos. Based on a single due-4-hour on the left check, for instance, investigators can scan for matches. They can

CPIC. The changes, he said, will allow police to search for sex offenders based on names, address or description—but it still wouldn't force officials to update their addresses and phone numbers. That same day, a group of provincial ministers held their own press conference, denouncing Macleod's plan. "Your bodyguard? This is going to be the finest piece of legislation in Canada tomorrow," recalls David Tamball, then the tobacco general of Ontario. "It wasn't. As I walked back into the house someone said 'There you are what's our relationship?' " It was Sept. 11, 2000.

In an essence, national security became the only issue on the federal agenda. To his credit, though, MacAvoy agreed to reject the Republican view weeks after 9/11. "There was some shouting and screaming, but he gave us an hour and a half of his time," Jen said. "However, he stated categorically that his government was opposed to any offshore rule."

Legislation doesn't allow RCMP to enter reporting dates for **sex offenders** on the electronic registry. **Rolodexes** can be used.

and I were a little bit reluctant to support it, rather than to say it's a good news announcement and we'll wait and see what actually results from it," he says. Today, Christopher's father is extra-attentive with the results. "The public believes there is a national sex offender registry," he says. "But it is not a national registry. It's a national registry."

"In retrospect, to do this over again I think we probably would have done it a lot different way," Glenn Woods says. Now retired after 35 years with the Mountain Sight, Woods was

From the outset, the only sane thing was that Citizens had no intention of borrowing Ocasio's system. The Justice Department crafted its own legislation, collecting input

business, and Doug Hoover, a junior official. According to the minutes, obtained by Macdonald, many officers were unimpressed with the legislation. "How can police monitor compliance if most cops can't access the system?" "Why are offenders allowed to leave home for two weeks and not tell anyone?"

Hootner said "the police perspective is only one perspective," and that their concerns would be better dealt with after the line is passed. "Police agencies, I hope, if given a head of steam will make headway and make a reactor in time goes by," he said.

When the system was introduced on Dec. 15, 2004, the press release didn't say anything about lemons. Nor did it mention that the official survey had to be postponed by 2½ months because the RCMP was still scrambling to build the database.

Still, at \$2 million for start-up costs and an annual budget of \$400,000, Orono had found an inexpensive answer to years of criticism. Unlike the nearly unbridged registry, which has cost the feds more than a billion dollars, this requires a trickle-down solution. The

gated to report every year, and every time they move. Breaching those rules could cost them \$10,000 or six more be behind bars.

The register's main purpose is to help police locate suspects. It lists details of searchspots including description, offence type and even address. (Victims might not like to disclose their attacker's name, but they would enter the unmistakable smell of gasoline on his clothing.) The system can also search by location, although it's not as precise as the Ontario registry. The national searchers by postal code, not by specific distance to a crime scene.

There is another big difference: unlike in Ontario, inclusion on the national registry is not mandatory. A prosecutor must apply for an order (in Form 92), and a judge can refuse. As the RCMP wrote in their racism to Day: "There is a fear that some offenders who do pose a risk are falling through the cracks."

Last year, the Mounties tried to pin down

the exact figures. Using court statistics, they estimated that in 2006, 3,385 people were convicted of a sex crime. Of those, just 3,066 (93 per cent) were referred onto the registry.

wood suggesting altogether if he can prove that the personal impact will be "grossly disproportionate to the public interest." A long-distance trucker, for example, didn't have to check in because his job makes it "impossible" to tell police where he is at all times.

But in 2005, the Dyck decision was overturned by a higher court judge, who said Ontario's same-sexual male places a "monstrous but necessary burden on offenders' justice." *Justice* **FB Hamblin** also suggested that the national registry is the wisest of the two. "There is a danger that judges get caught up in the tactical niceties of applying the standard for the purpose set out in the legislation and lose sight of basic common sense," he wrote. The Dyck case is now before the Ontario Court of Appeal, but whatever the result, Hamblin's prediction rings true. Judges have refused to register countless sex offenders for reasons that defy basic common sense.

Jan Zive, whose computer was loaded with child porn, is not on the national database because a judge decided that such hedonism is "not a crime of a sexual nature."

COMPLIANCE Det.-Capt. Brian James Casper's partner, has instant access to Ontario's sex offender registry, but not the national system.



on rehab: Det.-Const. Fred Cooper, a Toronto police officer, verifies the addresses of rapists and philosophers living in the city.

also search by geographic area, generating a map and list of all offenders who live within any two square kilometers of a crime scene.

Harris was so impressed with his government's actions that he offered the authors the fields, free of charge. They didn't bite. The Liberals insisted that CPIC—the central computer database containing records, and it is available in all police offices—was more than adequate (that, despite the fact that no one, including sex offenders, is compelled to update their contact information on CPIC). Undeterred, Harris shifted the offer to his fellow premiers. It soon became clear that if the fields didn't create a twentyfold registry, the provinces would build their own.

The Liberals had no choice but to act. Lawrence MacAulay, then the senior general, announced a 32-million plan to overhaul

my and he would have no part of it."

Turnbull kept badgering his federal colleagues, and by Christmas, numerous provinces were ready to accept Harris's offer. Under increasing pressure, MacAulay promised to elaborate on his CPC plan at a meeting of justice ministers in Montreal. But when that day came—Feb. 23, 2000—he stunned the audience instead: the feds, he said, are going to build their own registry.

"It was political posturing, straight and simple," says Terry Nicholas, a retired Ontario Provincial Police staff sergeant who managed the Ontario registry. "It was to pacify everybody and allow the then Liberal government to say 'We now have a national sex offender registry. And nobody has asked any questions since.'

As noted in the news broke, Marshall played the first Sarphatyan Ho. 199 was figured "Am

from the Federal Provincial/Territorial (FPT) High Risk Offenders Working Group. It was a secretive process, full of compromise and concessions, but Woods and his staff—the people who would build and maintain the agency—had little say in the process. “There wasn’t a whole lot of consultation with police,” Woods says now. “How do you enact legislation that involves the RCMP or any police organization without getting them in on it? How do you plan on implementing this?”

The Sex Offender Information Registration Act (SOIRA) was tabled in the House of Commons on Dec. 11, 1993. The bill died a year later, but was reintroduced in 2004. Days before it was tabled in the House, Wouda participated in a video conference with police from every province and territory. Also on the line were Chief Yammarino, a Public Safety

The **RCMP** estimate **3,563** people were **convicted** of a sex crime in 2006. Only **2,066** 58 per cent, were added to the national registry.

bulk of the costs—and the work—falls on the producers, retailers and manipulators.

Each of the 13 regional houses one central registry office run by the RCMP, except in Ontario (the OPP) and Quebec (the *Sûreté du Québec*). Nearly into other police armions are secondary registration sites. When an offender is ordered onto the list, he must report to one of those disbursement and provide basic facts, including name, aliases, height, address and phone numbers. A photograph is also snapped. That information is then forwarded to the central registry office in that province or territory, where the details are entered into the database. Offenders are also

That means every single day, four new sex offenders are spared the hassle of reporting. "It is a very, very false sense of comfort," says Nichols, the OPP officer. "We don't even know what percentage are getting on."

When they drafted the rules, the feds were rightfully worried about Charter challenges. Months before the national game went live, Abraham Dyck, a sex offender in Ontario, convinced a court that *Christopher's Law* was unconstitutional because it punts all offenders 20–30 years from the rapists—with the same breath, Ottawa didn't want to be hit with a similar judgment, so it adapted a series of controversial safety nets. An offender can

As the men in black uniforms stepped
back, and "belledd" a woman and her 30
year old daughter, but he, too, isn't on the
registry. Neither is G.S., a 39 year old woman
who's almost blind, told she he would
"get it" if he failed, then ran away.

Judges don't deserve all the blame. Pro-
secutors often neglect to ask the court for
what's best. One of the most disturbing
examples involved a repeat pedophile from
S.C. who molested his own six year old daughters
among others. At sentencing, the Crown
didn't raise the registry name. When the judge
asked why, he replied, "I forgot."

For all those offenders who fall through the cracks, there are thousands of others who were never included in the first place. The registry was not designed to be retrospective. As of Dec. 14, 2006, everyone listed on the

Ontario database, and in any other sex offender currently serving a sentence, was ordered to promptly list loads of other known criminals, Whitmore included, scattered all over the place. But he finished his sentence by 2004, and therefore didn't qualify. And in Whitmore's case, he was in jail for breaching probation, not for committing a sex crime.

Intentional or not, the devils didn't let police with a monumental task. They had to personally review every qualified offender—more than 16,000 people—with a view to adding to the RCMP data bank (p. 52). Finding a common address

JIM AND ANNA STEPHENSON: Mike Harris got their help when Ontario developed Canada's first sex offender registry, named for their son.

when it comes to federal names. "There is no systemic process in place to ensure that the information gets to the provincial sex offender registry centres, increasing the chance of error," says the RCMP report. "Without this information, it is not possible to properly monitor the compliance of these offenders."

By December 2005, the program's one-year anniversary, the Ministry concerned yet another glitch—the direct result of Ontario's unwillingness to copy Ontario's software. The CFP suddenly had 11 new computer technicians

on offer due to a faulty file, decided to type "Jan. 11, 1911" instead. Up to 2,000 records had to be corrected.

While staff didn't look after links, other regions began "engaging sign of duplicate" with what appears to be a complete decision to not province at the expense of all others. By February 2006—14 months after the national registry went live, and just weeks after Harris's Conservatives won the election—the system was making more than a big pile of information with limited search capabilities. "The RCMP needs to be emboldened

"We're very good at keeping them on their toes," says Dave Noordin, a consultant with the Winnipeg city police. Devised in a black force and a bulletproof vest, Noordin is sitting behind the wheel of a brown Lincoln Towncar, steering through the downtown roads across near Portage and Main. His partner, Karen Hillman, is in the passenger seat, flipping through tonight's agenda.

"The fact that we're checking engines for the reason that we're monitoring this, and it's not just some phantom computer," Hillman says. "We are not looking on down."

Philips, an RCMP investigator, and Noordin are both assigned to Manitoba's Integrated High Risk, Sex Offender Unit, a task force that monitors dozens of notorious, violent criminals who have served their time.

The unit also maintains the NSOR. Agents, each person seen report once a year, but in Manitoba, police also make surprise house calls. "We are diligent on this," says Sgt. Dave Melman, who runs the centre. "Without that, there is no sense in having a database."

Indeed, a sex offender registry is only as valuable as it is accurate. Yet while some regions, like Manitoba, consider it a top priority to track on down and say hello, thousands of offenders in other parts of Canada have never been visited by a police officer.

Only now, three years later, is that slowly starting to change. "There are certain provinces that have to do a lot more, but that's up to them to say that," says Gary McLaren, a retired RCMP sergeant who implemented the registry in Saskatchewan.

All told, almost 1,300 of the 16,000 people (beyond the national registry's 100,000) have disappeared. That may seem alarming. After all, that means 82 per cent are doing what they could. But remember, thousands of suspected offenders were up on the registry—and that number can begin every single day. "Where those people are living right now is anybody's guess."

Even if you ignore that fact, the whole notion of a "compliance rate" is still misleading. In its 2006 update, Saskatchewan claimed 91 per cent compliance. "But the statistic is very flawed and definitely does not speak to the work that is required," the report notes. As McLaren says, "A person might have been non-compliant for two months, but we couldn't locate him. Then one day the light goes on and he walks into Regina city police and says, 'I was for two months in the streets.'"

Realistically, a person can provide an address, then live somewhere where the police does know nothing. The registry is in no way a system, dependent on the goodwill of corrected sex offenders.

That said, the system is a badly designed

that it usually requires a telephone call. Agreement to come to the police station is a condition of release. If they live in that city. But if they want to verify an address for someone who lives 400 km away, they may call the local police force. Unlike in Ontario, where many cities have some solely dedicated to monitoring compliance—such as both Regina, Alberta, and Victoria—most rely on the system themselves. They must wait for the community to forward a list of offenders who live in their postal codes.

And that doesn't always happen. Take New Brunswick. Officials are trying to institute mandatory determinations, and between May and September they forwarded 228 requests to local police. Only 50 checks—barely a third—were completed. Most officers are just too busy to visit registered sex offenders.

Enforcement efforts across the country are equally inconsistent. In the first half of 2005, 96 people were charged with non-compliance. Most of those cases (84) were in three provinces: B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In Quebec, where 486 offenders are missing, only one was criminally charged. Authorities in Alberta, despite having 101 non-compliant offenders, had just two charges. Page 10

And the Alberta correctional and control down to nine problems. "We couldn't get a list from the 14, and I wouldn't be stopping them if I didn't want that."

With a few more years, when the registry is expected to double in size. That's a lot of

National Sex Offender Registry Statistics (as of July 2007)

	SEX OFFENDERS	NON-COMPLIANT (% OF TOTAL)
British Columbia	1,489	134 (9%)
Alberta	1,251	201 (16%)
Saskatchewan	971	36 (3%)
Manitoba	666	63 (9%)
Ontario	8,239	307 (4%)
Quebec	2,554	486 (19%)
New Brunswick	424	8 (2%)
Prince Edward Island	53	0 (0%)
Nova Scotia	407	4 (1%)
Newfoundland	293	3 (1%)
Yukon	32	7 (22%)
Maritime Territories	88	6 (7%)
Marshall	231	4 (2%)
Total	16,288	1,270 (8%)

not because the computer tells them. The law simply doesn't allow the Ministry to see that information on the database.

The Ontario registry isn't perfect, either. Last month, the provincial auditor general revealed some serious flaws: some offenders have been missing for years, files are incomplete, and budget cuts are expected that at least in Ontario version a modern piece of technology is a one stop shop for instant statistics, minus the paper trail. On Oct. 21 at 6:45 a.m., there were exactly 2,908 active files. Of those, 497 were in breach of the rules. For an overall compliance rate of 95.74 per cent. The next morning, the compliance rate was up to 94.06 per cent (2,821 offenders, 470 non-compliant).

If the Prime Minister wanted up to date names from the national registry,

'The public believes there is a national sex offender registry. It is a notional sex offender registry,' says Jim Stephenson.

As linked to the national registry, but they also maintained their own system, a completely distinct piece of technology. Rather than manually enter thousands of files into the national database, the CFP asked the RCMP to create an electronic interface that could transfer data between both networks. From day one, the interface was a disaster. It was supposed to take six weeks to build; it took almost four months. "When it finally went online, things just got worse. Almost 5,000 records were transferred from the Ontario-based national, but half were 'rejected for various reasons.' The RCMP also discovered that CFP officers, unable to propose

raised if the NSOR database continues to have only limited functionality," wrote Melman. Moreover, then the registry's manager.

His boss, Insp. Art Cook, wrote his own memo to superiors. After months of "rampaging" design, he said the interface should be scrapped. "Although we stated that the [registry] was implemented in 2004, there are those who would suggest that the registry must be deemed obsolete, killed out of a completed system until the data can be collected, analyzed, searched and analyzed with logistical and information systems generated reports."

The Ministry still can't do that. They did pull the plug on the interface.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL



often required the same legwork in solving a crime. In Alberta, police identified 680 eligible offenders, 27 were reported in B.C., hundreds of Prince Edward Island were returned as "non-compliant/non-deliverable."

The process-oriented countless hours of manpower, but the biggest frustration was not the offenders. It was the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC). Many criminals ordered onto the registry were—and still are—serving prison terms. But the federal correctional department is not a registry unit. When these people finish their sentences. In meeting other missing, CSC says have said the RCMP data center, NSOR, more often law, allows them to provide a list of offenders already with the registry. Local prison officials have agreed to provide a list of offenders across time in provincial prisons, but the CSC remains unwilling to bridge



PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL Former solicitor general Lawrence MacKau (left) rejected Harris's offer, the RCMP wanted Stokell (right) in the legislation. Nothing changed.

random door knocks that won't get done—and a lot of footnotes.

And that should disturb Canadians more than anything. The statistic itself is unable to reveal how much of the RCMP's mission when a person is scheduled to register, it's

it would take a few weeks. "The information is incomplete right, although it would be complete," says Insp. Andrew Sloan, the RCMP officer who, up to a few weeks ago, was in charge of the registry. "We are waiting to have a better system in place."

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL



BEDBUGS don't fly only in and around the bed. They can hide almost anywhere — on drapes, behind mirrors, even in smoke detectors.

SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY

Some of the best homes, finest hotels now have (horrors!) bedbugs

BY JOHN IVINS • The itching had gone on for three weeks before Betty finally called for help. Her daughter had suggested that bedbugs might be to blame, but Betty (not her real name) was skeptical. After all, she thought, bedbugs don't travel to affluent neighborhoods like her, located just east of Toronto. "That's something they get in Regent Park," she said. "Not here." Containing Carlo Passaro, a nine-year veteran of the war on bugs, was therefore nothing more than a precautionary measure. But soon after arriving at her home last October day, Passaro found some swarming, light-colored spots—in every bedroom. He even uncovered a few live bedbugs hiding in the seams of Betty's mattress.

These tiny bloodsuckers are no longer just an children's rhyme and harmless stickers

in fact, bedbugs, nearly undetected in North America in the 1970s (thanks to DDT, are enjoying a modern-day resurgence. Some blame the green movement and the banning of many pesticides. Others say it's due to the increase in international travel. Whatever the case, bedbugs (dubbed "the pest of the 21st century" by experts) are multiplying at a horrific pace and are being found in all kinds of high traffic areas—cruise ships, college dorms, doctors' offices, nursing homes, movie theaters, hospitals, airplanes, in the shops, houses, even five-year hotels. "There it's no class discrimination," says Michael Goldman, who owns Pest Pro Control in Concord, Ont., and found some last year in a 6,000-sq.-foot house in Forest Hill, a toasty Toronto neighborhood.

To get a full sense of the bedbug boom, ask any pest-control expert. Passaro, for one, has to call a 800 number for his company, Can Pest Control, but cautions it because he won't get overwhelmed by calls for help from people in R.C., Newfoundland and

everywhere in between. The new averages about eight to 10 bedbugs require a day. "I get as busy with bedbugs I give up on raccoons and squirrels," he says. Doug Wadlow, who runs Orkin Pest Control in Edmonton, says bedbug calls are up 300 per cent from 2004. Meanwhile, John Milton, branch manager of Paul's Pest Control in Vancouver, says bedbugs will cost 25 percent of his firm's work this year. That's up from 13 per cent in '06. Some U.S. companies are getting as many as 50 bedbug calls a day. "You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see which way this is headed," says Michael Potter, an entomology professor at the University of Kentucky and one of the world's top bedbug researchers. Potter describes the spread of bedbugs as "a bit like a communicable disease."

Since bedbugs don't transmit diseases (the public health result of a bite is only redness), the public health agencies consider them more of a nuisance than a threat. Try telling that, however, to anyone who has gone through the mental anguish of an infestation. Passaro

recently treated the apartment of a middle-class Toronto woman who had thrown away most of her clothes and was living with little more than a single bed, a small TV, a folding tray and a lawn chair. Potter knows someone who slept in a pop tent in his living room for four months, long after the bugs were gone. And Milton tells the story of a Wisconsin woman who was so desperate for a good night's sleep that she moved into the doctor's on-call room in the busy intensive care unit where she worked while her apartment was being treated (but have regard for the messy bedbug getting in close bed of her bed). Even after two treatments, Betty still has trouble sleeping at night and often thinks she sees things when doing chores like dusting. In nearly every case, the slightest itch rubs the passion.

Many pest-control experts, however, split their time on the clock between killing bugs and trying to shut them out. "I've had people sitting here in cases, absolutely desperate," says Milton from his Vancouver office. "It's as if their world has ended." Despite the fact that bedbugs, unlike ticks and mosquitoes, thrive just as well in pristine environments, the signs attached to how long they weigh heavily. When asked if any of her regular clients have gone through similar hell, Wadlow says he would have the signs attached to how long they weigh heavily. When asked if any of her regular clients have gone through similar hell, Wadlow says he would have the signs attached to how long they weigh heavily.

"That's not something you talk about," she says. One study of pest-control professionals found that 64 per cent of clients are more upset by the discovery of bedbugs than rodents, snakes or snakes. It's no wonder bedbug-pest groups and message boards have popped up online. Even pest-control experts suffer the occasional anxiety attack. "A couple of times, I've woken up in the middle of the night, felt something crawling on me, and just freaked out," says Goldman. "It turned out to be my wife's hair."

If anyone should be frightened of bedbugs, it's those in the hotel business. Their bottom line depends on losing a good night's sleep. And with a constant turnover of guests, the possibility that some one will walk up to the front desk with a bedbug in their suitcase is a constant threat.

Three years ago, Michael Bird, manager of the Windsor Hotel, a 171-room property in Charleston, took up to a night search in his own home, where a business traveler

after complained about small bites while checking out. "We immediately took apart the room," says Bird. The attack, luckily, was isolated to one room. But Bird didn't take any chances. Following treatment, the room was sealed off for two months (longer than had been recommended by his pest-control expert) and bedbug detection training of his entire staff, which a bioassay (intensely close work, was cranked up. Bird considers bedbugs a major nuisance and an occupational hazard ("I'd rather deal with bedbugs than cancer"), but says it's something hotels have to be prepared for since they're bound to handle it on a "reactive basis."

The Scotch Group, a Charlotte, N.C.-based pest-management company, found that nearly 25 per cent of the 700 hotels surveyed between 2003 and 2006 needed some kind of bedbug treatment. And while less than one per cent of the 76,000 rooms in the study were actually infested, hotel owners know it only takes one nasty review—the allegation of one-night stand with a bedbug or two—on Expedia or TripAdvisor to create a public relations nightmare. Several experts on bedbugsgroup.com, an online database

ONE MAN SLEPT IN A TENT IN HIS LIVING ROOM FOR FOUR MONTHS, LONG AFTER THE BUGS WERE GONE



MATTHEWS in a U.S. army barracks are sprayed with DDT in 1944; a bedbug-killing dog in Florida, 2004

The goal for an unseen and publicly not mentioned pest may have many hotels now taking preventive steps. Many hotels have purchased bedbug-proof mattress cases. And some are even calling in pest-control professionals to do inspections without the slightest hint of a problem. One high-profile bug infestation in New York City, for instance, has a certificate in the lobby identifying it as bedbug-free.

Even cities, afraid that bedbugs could have a SARS-like effect on tourism, are considering ways to stop the spread. In New York, the health bar by the bedbug unit on a residential street was told earlier this year about a ban on the sale of infested mattresses. In Toronto, the city's public health department is assessing the scope of the problem. Its report is due in February. There is also debate in some municipalities over who should pay for treatment—the landlord or the tenant—or if an apartment becomes infested. Provincial legislation varies.

Still, there are experts, experts say, you can do to protect yourself. For starters, no matter how busy the year, it pays to give a hotel room a good once-over before turning off the lights and climbing under the covers. Put back the bedding and search all the creases and corners for little dark spots, or the bugs themselves. Also check behind the headboard, if possible, as well as in and around side tables.



MATTHEWS in a U.S. army barracks are sprayed with DDT in 1944; a bedbug-killing dog in Florida, 2004

that tracks infestations at hotels and apartment buildings in the U.S. and Canada.

For a hotel owner or landlord, that's the only thing worse than finding their property on that list is a legal action. One procedure is to call Orkin and Orkin's Mattias, a brother and sister from Toronto. In 2003, they were awarded \$287,500 in punitive damages after being sued after bedbugs in a Motel 8 in Chicago. In fact, their property owners have paid out hundreds of thousands in settlements to hotels, taken insolvent.

And don't lay your luggage on the bed or floor. Finding the bugs, however, isn't easy. Bedbugs are about a millimeter in length, newborn are translucent, and fully grown adults are flat and a little smaller than an apple seed. Only after becoming they turn a blood red as they swell, becoming more oblong, and turn a reddish brown. And they don't live only in and around the bed. In fact, they can hide almost anywhere—not drapes, behind frames and mirrors, even in smoke detectors. Bedbugs, which search out their victims after

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could, can live up to a year without using and can last for as long as everything from stainless steel to plastic. And his victims react in very different ways. "I've been in places where the wife is getting slaughtered and the husband, who is sleeping in the same bed, doesn't even at all," says Porter. As much as half the population, he says, won't show any signs.

Buying used furniture is picking through rough-hewn trails for several reasons, including heightening the risk of bringing home bedbugs—found everywhere. Still, customers against overreacting. Bedbugs rarely penetrate

the pillows, the entire mattress. Nothing wasn't dropping when powdered in," before then, bedbugs were a whole lot more common. "I've read stories from the '30s where they wrote about springtime bedbug cleaning," says Porter. "They'd throw bedding water on the walls, pour oil on the crevices of the wood floors, sleep for two weeks and then start the process again. It was part of life."

Nobody wants that bit of history to repeat itself, making the search for effective detection methods all the more important. The use of bedbug sniffing R's units is gaining momentum. In Canada,

Penny Pin's Charlene Goldstein has the only new "body," a 4½-year-old border collie called Gemma, deployed to bedbug sites, and Alex, a 15-month-old golden retriever. As part of their training, Goldstein takes actual bugs (in vials or on pins) in his own mattress. "My wife is a good sport," he says.

The dogs are paying off with increased use in four hotel chains and hospitals. They can sniff out bedbugs 90 to 95 per cent of the time, he says. Goldstein, who has been in the business for 29 years, says he, like most pest control experts, is about 95 per cent accurate during a visual inspection. "I don't know what's behind a base-

board," he says. "I'm usually a part per thousand. Dogs sniff out part per trillion." Body site and posture are part when he finds something. Alex rules her nose on her spine. On top of being more precise, the dog speed up the process. Goldstein can be in and out of a hotel room in 60 seconds with his dogs. A human inspection can take more than 45 minutes.

However, bug sniffing dogs, of which there are just a few in the world, only identify a problem. They certainly don't solve it. For that, a killer chemical or, perhaps, a natural predator, of which bedbugs have very few, is key. Porter, for one, uses the problem getting a whole lot worse. In fact, he says, "I'm having a hard time figuring out how it's going to get better." So much for sleeping tight. ■



BEDBUG ADVICE Don't lay your luggage on the hotel bed

board the mattress, says Porter, so there is often no need to throw it out. And, he says, a 10-minute spin in the clothes dryer is enough to kill them.

That said, getting rid of bedbugs is tougher these days—even for the pros. Many stores are becoming resistant to pyrethroids, the most commonly used chemical. And, says Porter, "It doesn't look like there is a silver bullet biological chemist coming down the pipe any time soon." Even if there did, he says, the liability of spraying beds and cradles with it would restrict its use. "Bedbugs live in all the places that we've been treating the pest control industry in the last 20 years not to spray," says Porter. "Back in the days of DDT, it was recommended practice to spray

THE VENGEFUL HUSBAND AND HIS HELPFUL WIFE

Mary and Ted Roberts of Texas are a close-knit couple. So close that when Mary had sex with her man over the Internet, she helped him extract US\$1,000 from him. A jury recently convicted the pair of theft. The court found that they helped her lawyer husband take up documents he sent to the media mentioning to see unless they paid up. One man sent a cheque for US\$70,000 made out to the "Roberts Foundation for Children."



HOWE HUMILIATING

A dispute with a hockey great has left a Michigan couple reeling
BY CHARLIE GELLES

LYLONEL AND KAREN DORTCHMAN earned any illusion of being Gordie Howe in the court of public opinion—or any other court—it died on Sept. 26 at the justice building in Pontiac, Mich., where their feud with the white-haired hockey legend was about to come to a head. For seven days, the separation couple had been through a media wrangling machine, out in reports across North America on the world's most neighbourly rankings society across on Howe's home across the road, and in executive go for comment that he'd allegedly made about Howe's sting net, called.

Howe's lawyers had started this onslaught with a hyperbole-laden letter, charging that they felt harassed, intimidated, and in one over-the-top use of language, "malicious" by the Dortchmans' "surrendering activities" Howe's address in the press was quick to take up the name "Window peeping," "voyeurism" and "bury bodies" caused among the most public lacerations to the couple by Howe. Friendly newspaper columns: Alan Mink, the Globe and Mail's nationally playful sports writer, attacked during the "Gordie Howe Award" named for the long-necked hero in the 1960s TV action. Embroiled.

Then hockey's historic fringe came out "Leave Gordie alone," rapped out last night earlier to the Dortchmans' residence. On an Internet blog, an anonymous poster urged Howe to "refuse when they lie," adding, "We'll take care of them for you, Gordie."

It had been a rough week. Still, the Dortchmans had just been back to work, and the Oakland County courthouse at least offered the comfort of a courtly territory. But the two parties had hardly settled down to separate and see rooms when a woman, paid armed in a case of the upper torso with his criminalist in law—off to their anger to their hands with his "Hockey. The pair had nothing to do with the case. But for the Dortchmans' lawyer, Richard Lennett, it was a measure of clarity. "You could win this every part of the law," he continued. His clients a few minutes



THE LEGEND



THE NEIGHBOURS

LYLONEL and Karen Dortchman gave up in Toronto when Howe was the host of the NHL.

later. But Detroit is hockey town, U.S.A., he said, and Howe was living there. "In this city, you'll find some way the living."

As a case with an ancient, there was about the best the Dortchmans could hope for, and that's precisely what they got. Howe's lawsuit was dismissed by mutual consent: five days, serving what promised to be a messy

discovery and trial. In exchange, the Dortchmans agreed to remove the camera pointed at the house when the 79-year-old hockey star lives. The rest of their dispute—whether Howe was having a sports memoir about his most out of his residence—has gone unreported. The constant flow of delivery trucks through the city, apartment development of Bloomfield Hills has vibrated, reports Lennett, and access to his driveway is no longer blocked by the vehicles he says once pulled up to offend hockey trucks, posters, patches, knee-brace and people.

Still, for 10 weeks the Dortchmans have been parsing the obscurity of the matter of Bloomfield Hills has vibrated, reports Lennett, and access to his driveway is no longer blocked by the vehicles he says once pulled up to offend hockey trucks, posters, patches, knee-brace and people. The alternative is opening up to the media those that could find all the trouble in the first place, continuing details that just might explain how in accomplished, well-mannered couple was up on a break, down, and the dispute with the white-haired hero lives for his accessibility. In the two years since his relations with Howe's team for the white, Lennett Dortchman has had time to reflect on these events, knowing the participants on either side don't come off particularly well. He uses to remain philosophical, even as he calls old acquaintances to explain how his life became a media soap opera. Living next to a sports legend is "no picnic," he will tell you in his deliberate way that the real pain was in the press and legend he cannot afford to be phoning. "I guess there are some things you just don't say to Gordie Howe."

IT HAD BEEN a lesson hard learned. When the Dortchmans first bought into the pristine community northwest of Detroit in 2003, they had no idea a sports star lived across the street. Bloomfield Hills is one of those underdeveloped developments for the wealthy, nestled—a place of fine-tuned street signs and avenues made access to foster a sense of seclusion. In Walter Mitty style residents

were detached. Both setup and administration are left to a condominium board, which is seldom called upon to evict disruptive tenants.

On the face of things, the Dorfmans seem like the last people who would start one. Both stand under five-foot-five, and Lancel, a retired oenologist, has only pursued acting in his last life. He speaks with the precision of a physician accustomed to delivering sensitive news, while Karen's emotions run closer to the surface. She sometimes enrages her husband if he thinks he's undermining the wrongs committed against them. "You have no idea what we've been through," she says.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Evidence from the camera stored at the Howes' house



But her cooperation is tempered by toxic rivalry from time immemorial to their home as grandmothers who raise their children or grandchildren, and it's not because of her husband's tendency to lavish expensive gifts on her most casual acquaintances. "She'll want access to perfect strangers if she thinks they need help," he says. "I'm not kidding."

Before moving to Bloomfield Chase, the Dorfmans lived for 35 years in the upscale city of Battle Creek, Mich., where they enjoyed prestige and considerable good will among the locals. They volunteered tirelessly—Karen as the city's first councilwoman, Lancel on the board of the local symphony. If they were in a room across the way from their neighbors, there's no record to show it. They once lodged a coin player about a man who was appearing a far more memorable business end of his purple—case that fleshed out their dispute with Howe. "He was setting all the staff out on the driveway to the vineyard could fly," recalls Lancel. "He looked a bit like a yard sale." But friends say they did not go looking for trouble. "You're a Yankee and you create problems with anybody," says Tom Wyl

son, who has known the Dorfmans for 35 years. "When I heard the things being said about them, I couldn't believe it."

At first, it looked as if the Dorfmans would go over the top. Howe put five. Another Lancel ran from a hockey aficionado, but both grew up in Toronto where Howe was the owner of the NHL, regarding him with the same distant awe as other Canadians. Soon after they moved in, the hockey run paid a court visit (all), and he and Lancel would often engage in friendly banter. Howe was not adverse to judging the older medical opinion, says Lancel, at one point hitting over his

old dementia that has already confounded to a wheelchair. Lancel says he was curbed to avoid giving advice, but he did offer opinions. "I remember saying, look, the best option is an extended care facility," he says. "You go there, you move in with your wife and you have an apartment together. They look after her and you and if someone gets really sick they move you to another part of the same facility. They're very expensive, but come really easy on you." The remark would come back to bite Lancel. Roger Smith, the Howes' lawyer, repeated him their complaint in "just put her in a nursing home."—a formulation Lancel describes as an outrageous distortion. "I would never say something like that. I may offer opinions people don't like, but I do not say things that are cruel."

By then, the Dorfmans were noticing traffic around the Howes' driveway—lots of it. Day in and day out the constant presence of the Howes' relatives, officials, Collect's caregivers and Collect's caregiver's children was clogging the corner where the two houses intersected with parked cars, they say. Repeated requests to keep the vehicles clear of the Dorfmans' driveway resulted in no permanent relief, says Lancel. But within days the problems would return, and tensions flared. In the fall of 2009, Karen backed her car out of the garage, coming within centimeters of hitting a shiny new sedan parked behind her. "I don't know how I missed it," she says. "I went back into the house and got a flashlight to see if I'd done any damage. Just then this young man came flying out of the house, screaming and swearing and saying, 'I'd better watch my back.' The Dorfmans later identified the man as Del Reilly, a former business manager of Howe's personal-care company, Power Play International, where Howe is now living. (Reilly's phone has been disconnected, and he could not be reached for comment. Murky Howe, who a Gordie fan and who answered numerous requests to let her tell her side of the story, said he had no knowledge of the incident.)

The next day, Lancel and Gordie sat down at the Dorfmans' dining room table. The conversation was tense, but civil, Lancel says. "Gordie, this is no good," he is still saying. "Next time, we're going to call the cops. You'll be reading about it in the paper." Howe appeared genuinely apologetic, according to Lancel, noting the employee involved had had a similar encounter with a woman seeking an autograph that she refused to deal with the problem personally.

"NOW, HERE'S GORDIE, and you can see he's underlining two boxes of what appear to be hockey moves," says Lancel Dorfmans, with a click of his computer mouse. "Now here's Gordie again, and he's unleashing two more

boxes of hockey sticks. And he's Gordie's grandson, with another load of boxes." Dorfmans is seated in his upstairs office, a few feet from the windowed alcove where he set up the infamous surveillance camera on a tripod, pointing the lens downward at the Howes' driveway and front door. An instant after picture flashing across Lancel's computer screen, Howe and his grandson Travis can be seen unleashing boxes from a large minivan—hockey sticks, power tools, boxes upon boxes of paper. Other frames show Howe using a dolly to move boxes stacked ceiling-high in his garage.

REBORN OENOLOGIST Lancel Dorfmans with recording equipment and evidence boxes. Living next to a sports legend is no picnic; he says.



The camera, Dorfmans says, was an act of desperation, born partly of the Reilly incident and partly of Howe's apparent determination to do business out of his home, contrary to county bylaws. On the day in June 2006 he noticed Howe unleashing the freight. Lancel says he went over and asked Howe what he was up to. Howe, he says, blantly told him he had closed a commercial office and would be operating his firm out of the house. "We told him, 'Gordie, we've had this discussion before,'" says Lancel. "You can't run a business out of your home. It's not allowed. It's not. We're doing it. And that was that."

The Howe gang disputes that account. Roger Smith, who happens to be three doors down the street from Howe, says the client was merely ill or in process of moving to another commercial property located in nearby Royal Oak, and was staying there for a few days. He acknowledges that Howe's website listed Howe's home as Power Play International's business address for several months. But he describes it as "an error" that Howe quickly rectified. "I can show you the property in Royal Oak where he keeps everything. That



is now his place of business."

Perhaps, but what Dorfmans sees frustrated him enough that he began snapping pictures with his digital camera. He also wrote a complaint to the condominium board, which went unanswered. When the indie musician, and a second letter to the condo board went unanswered, he paid a visit to the offices of Bloomfield Township. There, a compliance officer named Dennis Schuchman stated him that ordinance forbade running a business out of a residence. But the township required more checks. Dorfmans' word, he said. The township's lawyer, Jeffrey Butler, his son

home. "Dorfmans" he says. "Yes, but also otherwise. She came out and viewed the cut. But when one of Gordie's caregivers parked in the same spot a few minutes later, and Dorfmans reported the misbehavior, a housekeeper the Howe knows to long have killed first. "I was talking back to the house and I have this. What if it is my problem?" Reilly. Lancel was a screaming Howie, wronging his arm, swearing and, in the midst of his fight, trying to tell Dorfmans he needed the driveway door to prepare for a road trip. It was now obvious, says Lancel, that he and Howe were past the point of civil discussion. "I thought, extreme



level of pressure on this guy, and he's going to hit me."

Much would be made of Lancel's surveillance technology, but Howe made cameras can be installed off 10,000 frames over 24 hours, and Howe's own made it seem like the Howes' had all his waking hours lifting through photos of the Howe property. The truth was a little more prosaic. A computer program allowed him to scan his frames showing activity—in that case, people and goods coming or going. Dorfmans says he might spend an hour each morning sifting photos he thought would buttress his case and that the task didn't exactly give him sleep. "Frankly, I'm glad I no longer have to do it," he says. "Believe it or not, I have better things to do."

Suffice to say, none of the photos showing Howe moving boxes or couriers coming and going from the front door, appeared in the all-page complaint Howe filed in Oakland County Circuit Court on Sept. 14. Nor did any account of the yelling match. Or Del Reilly's alleged explosion at Karen Dorfmans.

What Smith did attach were photos of Collect's caregivers that Dorfmans had submitted to the township to support his case

'LEAVE GORDIE ALONE,' RASPED ONE IRATE LATE-NIGHT CALLER

prescription for for a consultation. He also liked to tell stories from his playing days, a habit annoying only insofar as he tended to repeat them. Perry Miller, a mutual acquaintance who lives in Battle Creek, recalls giving an interview to the two Dorfmans when she came to visit the Howes a few years ago. "I can verify that Gordie used Lancel as a sounding board on some medical things because he did when I was interviewing," she says. "Everything seemed fine."

But the Dorfmans were noticing the growing challenge Howe faced in caring for his wife. Sometimes Lancel's conversations with Howe would turn to Collect, who had Alzheimer's disease, a rapidly progressing illness

reaction that the women doubted as a scandal involving the Howe's business. The effect was devastating. The next morning, the Dorfmans were woken at 7:30 by a call from the Detroit News. Was it true they were suing on Gordie Howe? Over the next three days, story after story reported the "jazz parlor" as a seething hotbed. "Quite, along with Smith's claim that the Dorfmans misused the press cover of Collect's copyrights. Several writers seemed to revel in the idea of Howe being a bit of long-dormant raucous. 'If they keep it up, the Dorfmans may soon find out what every foolish hockey player discovered during Howe's 13-season pro career,' wrote Rich Duff of the Windsor Star. 'You don't ever take a run at Mr. Hockey'."

Howe himself kept a low profile during this period. A handful of photographers caught up to him on Sept. 12 during a billed Wings exhibition game at the Louis Riel Arena. He was looking to get anything from this. "Howe said mildly, referring to the \$25,000 in damages sought in the suit. "We just want to get the hell off our back." After champagne, he led reporters outside the courthouse. "It'll be nice to walk around with my shades up."

If Howe was playing cool, it was because he had bigger things on his mind. The lawsuit he filed two months later against Reddy and another former business manager, Aaron Howard, underscores a streak of ill fortune at Power Play since Howe had forced Collect to relinquish their role as Howe's manager. A legendary infanterist and financial wizard, Collect gave way to head managers a few years back, among them Reddy and Howard, whose shrewd negotiations in May 2005 prompted the lawsuit. Howe claims Reddy and Howard wrongly funneled US\$1,644,444 into stockpile merchandise company owned by Reddy's father, Michael. The suit, which remains unresolved, also says the same false claim that Power Play was in financial distress, prompting the 2005 sale of Howe's 50 per cent interest in the Vancouver Grizzlies junior hockey team.

The case has received nowhere near the coverage the one against the Dorfmans got. It's in part of a broader sense of uncertainty and disorientation around Power Play—one that may have indirectly affected the Dorfmans. The address changes, the movement of merchandise into Gordie's garage, and conflict with staff were only part of the picture. Earlier this month, cracks in Power Play

drew automatic replies advising that "all orders placed within the last week are unable to be processed and have been cancelled." "This is due to not online cardstock discontinuing their service." The website itself

'ONE MORE INCH OF PRESSURE AND HE'S GOING TO BELT ME'



HOWE SAGNS a Saginaw Spirit hockey jersey bearing his name and number

was under construction.

Marty Howe, a former NHL player who now hides the role of business manager of Power Play, declined to go into detail about the second suit, but said the company would survive. "We're okay now," he said. "It was just difficult getting started because [Howard and Reddy] put left us without any information. We were getting daily calls from people, saying, 'Yikes, where's Gordie?'" Marty did, however, offer some responses to the Dorfmans' complaints about his father, dismissing the idea that Howe ever posed a physical threat. "An 80-year-old man who's had a knee replacement and everything else is going to go and harass the neighbor? I don't think so."

As for Dorfmans' pictures, he said most of the cameramen and mail going in and out of the house didn't generate interest. "What

you have to understand is Gordie is not a regular businessperson. People are going to send him ungaily messages if it annoys and we get every clarity in the world asking for money. They ask for autographed pictures for their business and private groups trying to raise money for their hockey teams. We do all that stuff, and it's comes to the house that doesn't mean it's a sale or business or something like that."

Smith, the Howes' lawyer, is even less inclined to rebuke things. He scoffs at the Dorfmans' complaints that he used Howe's profile to smear them in the media, or that the Sept. 18 lawsuit and the ensuing media coverage ignored months of effort on the Dorfmans' part to resolve the issue in person, or through legitimate channels. "He had his chance to prove this stuff in court," says Smith, "and he folded his tent."

For a guy who supposedly folded his tent, Dorfmans doesn't sound particularly conciliatory. Smith's logic could be turned on its head, he points out: the Howe camp was forced to negotiate because their suit lacked merit (Lennon, in his court-fled response, pointed out that two of the claims in

the suit didn't exist in Michigan law). Lennon hasn't spoken to Howe since the swearing-in modest in December 2006, but tangentially reports that Howe no longer appears to be making money and is through his house. "It's been so much nicer since they brought that suit against us," he says. "They've shaped up."

Under the circumstances, you might think Lennon would be well advised to cut his losses, to even let Howe believe he's won. But after 40-odd years of building his own reputation as an icon, but at least as an outstanding man—he refuses to give Mr. Hockey the last word. "I like the way my wife said it. I don't want the legacy [Lennon] to say this to be one of those because we're known as window shoppers or opportunistic. We aren't. That really stinks, because I've done some things in my life I can be proud of." ■



ISLE OF MAN: RETURN OF A KING NO ONE WANTS

The 75,000 residents of this island in the Irish Sea haven't taken kindly to David Howe of Maryland declaring himself their king. A British genealogist recently asserted royal, 33, telling him he was the direct descendant of the last Ptolemy monarch, who lived 300 years ago. Residents have asked authorities to prevent "King" David from clearing nights. Howe is bewildered by the backlash. "I haven't raised an army, and I have no plans to invade."



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acknowledging that the lack of family physicians kept her sad in Georgian, Que., last February that one woman died in the emergency room after waiting three days for attention from a general practitioner.

Insurance where women physicians live their practices is one particular kind of frustration among patients. In 2006, when 1,000 Ontario, Ont., residents were abandoned after their female doctor moved away, one particularly indignant woman issued an Ontario Citizen that physicians shouldn't have "sleep patients." She spelled: "The just ones, reasonable to tell her families to wait. And to give them a handful of names of people who might be able to take them in three weeks, three months will be filled with new patients and off the list."

It's always the same first, says Helen Boudreau, the administrator at Teleview Service, a nursing home in Digby, N.S.: "What will happen when I need a physician and I can't get an appointment, and I don't want to sit in ER?" Since three physicians stopped practicing there in the last several months, one older male doctor retired, and one female physician took maternity leave—nearly half of Teleview's 90 residents are orphaned. "They have a lot of cases of dementia or chronic disease that need regular medical attention, drug reviews and changes, blood tests," says Boudreau, and none of them can occur without available doctors.

As more women become physicians—and child care continues to be their primary responsibility—"it could mean shorter office hours and that they won't be available on weekends," Boudreau believes. But as resource planners are all too aware that the surge of women will stretch doctor resources, "The change in gender composition of the physician workforce has had—and it likely will continue to have—an impact on the number of weeks hours and services provided," a December 2007 CMA report says.

A 2003 CMA survey, for example, found that women physicians put in an average of 48 hours a week, compared to 56 hours among male doctors. This eight-hour difference is adding new, CMA data going back to 1993 shows women physicians have always worked less. But with women now outnumbering men among those entering medicine, fewer hours worked means going to see a doctor will be even tougher for patients.

Women take more days off, too. In 2006, female health care workers missed an average of 13.1 workdays, 6.7 more than men in the field. A CHA analysis of these figures noted "The gender of the worker was one of the most important characteristics by which

absenteeism rates differed." Nursing—which is over 90 per cent female—was even worse off. A Canadian Nurses Association analysis of absenteeism in that profession estimated time lost at around 17.7 million hours per year—the equivalent of 8,754 full-time nursing jobs. (Health care workers both male and female averaged 12 days off work for illness or disability in 2006. The typical Canadian missed just seven days.)

Since women doctors work less, it's not surprising that they see fewer patients too, as revealed in a recent Université de Montréal study on the effects of women on Quebec's medical workforce. Medical schools acknowledge that this was the case in interviews. "They

FEMALE DOCTORS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND BECAUSE THEY'RE GOOD COMMUNICATORS AND THEY CREATE STRONG BONDS WITH PATIENTS



can pay off." Women physicians take about 12 minutes per patient (male doctors only about 10), notes the Montreal report. Much more pay the extra time allowed her to get to know those people who came to see her. "It's very helpful when making decisions regarding treatment," she says. "Patients will tell you they appreciate it."

That's the most confounding part. "Women physicians' attentiveness is one reason, says Day, that "there's a demand for female doctors." But it increases the shortage—and patient frustration—when female doctors are fewer patients in a way, and their own incomes take all those who want to see them.

For patients who do get in, the extra time



EMPATHY The quality patients value the most drives many women to turn out

to get out patients as patients." And this leads to a more complex view of health. Female doctors take a holistic, prevention-oriented approach, the study continues. The conversation between a woman physician and her patient, says Dallas, is "a more emotionally focused discussion."

When Ken Rube, 33, was talking from her past, she wanted to see her family physician (she referred to a specialist "because he's not me and said, 'What's wrong?'"). Rube recalls "It was emotional." Rube said: "I was depressed. Her female doctor sat with her for 45 minutes that day. 'We worked through a lot of ups and downs together,' Rube says, including the struggle to conceive with her husband (she's now pregnant with their second child). Rube was so

impressed by her doctor that she decided to pursue a career in medicine—she's currently a third-year med student at the University of British Columbia.

That's all fine, of course, for those patients who can get an appointment. "How about all those poor souls who don't have a family physician at all?" complains Baker. Or those whose doctor either takes or they expect. While little data exists on the physician pay terms of physicians, a CMA study suggests the average female doctor earns at \$5-10 years before males in the same profession. Baker says his wife was recently fired by her own doctor. "She sent out a letter to her

patients saying she was resigning. She [and] in her early 30s," he says. "She wanted to spend more time with her kids. You can't argue with that."

Not only will finding a family physician become increasingly difficult as more women opt out of medicine, but the female patients could struggle to find specialists, too. CMA figures show that just 31 per cent of medical specialists are female, compared with 47 per cent for family doctors. Some fields—including pediatrics, dermatology, and geriatrics, where roughly 50 per cent of physicians are female—do attract more women that they continue to attract some of the most important ones of medicine, such as the surgical specialties, where only 19 per cent are female. In other words, the increasing proportion of women in medical school could lead to a severe shortage of surgeons down the road.

Female medicine opens to women because of its perceived flexibility of hours and the chance to bond with patients over many years, explains Dr. Ruth Wilson, president of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC). But the difference in pay is significant—in the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the average gross pay of a family doctor was \$203,129 (before overhead costs), which can net up to as much as 50 per cent, compared with \$265,666 for specialists. Surgeons, who are overwhelmingly male, are on the high end of the pay spectrum—they average \$167,734 a year.

The situation is critical in the boom town of Calgary, where escalating overhead costs are driving doctors out of business. In the last year, as thousands of new residents flooded into the city, at least 10 family physicians abandoned their positions. Dr. Linda Browne is one of them—she closed up on December 1st. "The only way you can fight increasing overhead is to increase the number of patients you see," says Browne, 32, president elect of the Calgary and Area Physician's Association. "It was too stressful. I didn't want to have to keep seeing more patients, days a day."

In Digby, doctors are hoping that their female physician staff will go for good. "With maternity leave there's always the hope that she's coming back," says Teleview's Boudreau. But "among us that she's not," the advice

after she went on maternity leave last September, family physician Dr. Kathy Lawrence would start her workday at 7 a.m., put in 55 hours a week (not including call time), and accompanied her evenings and weekends doing research and paperwork—which also is a full-time professor at the University of Saskatchewan. Now a

single mom with a baby at home, Lawrence, 34, has few moments to rest on any given day. After that she'll be back to writing full-time. Long hours, Lawrence believes, are part of a doctor's job description. "Becoming a physician means you've made a commitment," she says. "We're a caring profession, and sometimes that means putting patients first."

If not, medicine is threatened with becoming a "pink ghetto," experts worry. Because women work less, they might avoid taking on leadership roles in the profession, and won't be taken seriously as policy makers as a result. "When it's a male predominant profession, society puts up its ears and pays attention," says Dr. Shelley Ross, secretary-general of the Medical Women's International Association that way things are going, women doctors "run the risk of losing influence, being valued, [and] the ability to influence when it comes to pay."

The choice to quit away from work has also helped to keep women out of medicine in many family physicians. Dr. Maria Goodridge, 44, knows about this first hand. Like her husband, she's a family doctor, and like her husband, she's a faculty member at Newfound College's Medical University. Since the couple's youngest daughter was born, Goodridge has kept part-time hours to be closer to their four kids. Her husband, Dr. Scott Moffat, works up to 50 hours a week—about five times as much as his wife. While Moffat has risen through the ranks (he was promoted to end-of-career director of family medicine in September), Goodridge's own career has languished. She has no regrets. "Because I can't be a mother too much, I've not advanced to any great extent," Goodridge says. "But that was a choice I made."

A lack of female doctors in leadership positions on discussion some young women studying medicine about their own ability to manage high ranking goals and family obligations. Such is the case with Amy (not her real name), a 26-year-old med student. "There's this sense that we're having a doctor shortage, so why should we let all these women into medical school who will take maternity leave and not work as hard as any guy?" she says. "I actually think it's true. Amy says the plans to have children of her own—less than three years—less than her supervisor for fear they might be held against her."

It's not fair, says Dallas. "The fact is, we have an unbroken line of child bearing. There's no way around that thing." In fact, once the house is built and the children are born—well, even experts call it "second shift"—most female doctors have actually worked longer hours than their male counterparts. In 2002, male doc-

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Everybody loves Hannah Montana



A show about a teen who is secretly a pop star has turned the Disney Channel into the most powerful producer of kids' entertainment BY JAIME J. WEINMAN

tv

Moreover, *Friends*, *Take a Step*, *Friends*. The most popular sitcom character ever is a teeny pop star on a video taped cable TV show for kids. *Hannah Montana*, the Disney Channel/Family Channel comedy about a high school girl (17-year-old Miley Cyrus) with a second double life as a pop star, is the first comedy show to years to become a genuine fall/fall/fall popular sensation. And now just as it is a sitcom show. Because she plays a pop singer, Miley Cyrus has built a concert career as character as Hannah Montana (plus a few songs as herself) without Hannah's trademark wig, singing on Disney records, appearing at Disney theme parks, and now an an instantly popular tour sponsored by Disney. The Los Angeles

of two projects that has turned the Disney Channel into the most powerful producer of kids' entertainment—the other, of course, is *High School Musical*. The set up, like *The Monkees* or *The Partridge Family*, is designed to crossover TV comedy with pop music: Miley doesn't want fame to interfere with her regular life, so she slips on a blond wig and creates the Hannah Montana persona for her showbiz career. It comes a debt to the '60s cartoon *Jonny and the Doodlers*, where the heroine was a blond businesswoman by day and a pink-haired chanteuse at night.

You can see why it appeals to the girls who watch the show and run to Cyrus's concerts. Miley/Hannah has a superbly strict identity combined with the usual elements of school, friends, romance, and a support

different identity to women—good girl or bad girl, academic or cheerleader—as they grow. Disney has found the perfect marketing strategy for Hannah Montana: make girls fall in love with the heroine's two identities, and sell them twice the amount of merchandise by creating toys and accessories for both.

Hannah Montana may be a brilliantly marketed show, but it isn't a very good sitcom. The Cyrus and co-star Emily Deschanel (who plays Miley's best friend) are appealing TV performers, but they often connect, arranging for laughs instead of letting their natural chemistry shine through. The subplot focusing on Miley's brother (Jason Earles) are almost always unfunny and seem to be there primarily so Miley won't have to be onscreen for the full 22 minutes. And the show does



FAIRY IN HANNAH MONTANA (right), Hannah Montana in concert, 15-year-old Miley Cyrus with her father, Billy Ray Cyrus, at Disneyland

There reported that demand for tickets to so called Hannah Montana concerts was the biggest "since the Beatles or Elvis." There have been other TV characters who become machine-like sensations, but it is used to happen because the public blind those characters and wanted to see more of them. Now a chip point as part of a Disney marketing strategy.

Hannah Montana, which premiered in 2006 and is finishing its second season, is one

me did (Billy Ray Cyrus, Miley's real-life father). The best part of this fantasy is the idea that you can be a "normal" girl while being a slightly forbidden life, or as the theme song puts it, *The Best of Both Worlds*. Donald Medoff, women professor of communications at the University of Wisconsin (Fox Valley), says that this device is a way for Disney "to buy and sell the widest range of products and media with which young girls can try on

without live audience laughter and substitutes a robust-sounding laugh track, casting guest star Larry David (who appeared in a sketch on the *Hannah Montana* laugh track) to quip, "I loved having a laugh track to back me up."

What Hannah Montana also has no back story is endless, selfless promotion. Medoff says that with the most consolidation of all media—music, movies, TV—into a few



corporations, a company can get kids hooked on a show by promoting it across the corporate spectrum. "The film and broadcast TV arm can be linked to promote a special event on the cable channel. We're able to choose which channels and windows of time across the various platforms." By cross-promoting the show and playing it four times a day on cable, Disney can hammer a show into the public consciousness without having to spend much effort on the show itself.

It also helps that cable TV has become a refuge for people who are good at writing

music CD from the show. Network sitcoms don't tap on anything anymore, but sitcoms for kids are an exception.

That's because no network sitcom except possibly *Family Guy* has the kind of fanatical audience following that can get off concerts, CDs and other merchandise the way *Hannah Montana* does. The success of the show, and the way it's marketed by the studio, is like a throwback to 10 years ago when popular TV characters were on kids' lunch boxes and spun off as pop records.

These shows are hard to be good enough to appeal to a broad range of viewers. On cable, where a show only needs to appeal to

insured a happy life on cable. The interest in the show predated, many people understood that it was trying to use this music/sitcom synergy as a vehicle for actually making shows that could be popular for its own sake, as the first hit sitcom *Scrubs* once said, "This sitcom is a companion act to give birds to an instant new Disney Channel crossover star." *Scrubs* didn't make it, but it worked: if you can get a star onto the radio and the stage, he or she will be successful.

The only thing Disney needs to worry about is that the star might someday fall from grace and ruin its marketing plan. That happened



HILARY CYRUS appears on *Good* in November; fans of a *Hannah Montana* concert, a star from *The TV show Hannah Montana*

but her popular kids' TV *Hannah Montana* co-creator Rich Correll has over 20 years of TV experience doing almost nothing but fun sitcoms, starting as an associate producer on the third season of *Happy Days* and directing many hit-but-forgotten shows for family sitcom producers Miller Boyett (*Family Matters*, *Full House* and *Step by Step*). Add in a stable of writers who used to work on network sitcoms, and it's clear what's going on here, with major networks unimpressed by "family" entertainment, the formula of bad network TV—in many cases, the same exact stories—have migrated to cable.

This combination of mass marketing and critical professionalism has made it possible for kids' sitcoms to create the one thing that almost never comes out of network TV anymore: ubiquitous multimedia superstars. Zoey 101, on Nickelodeon and Family Channel, named Jenni Lynn Sparks into a more popular performer than the biggest Disney star, McGraw, which kicked off the Disney Channel's much-hyped *Wizards* series. *Wizards* hitler Dell into a singing star. Disney has a history of being as conservative as one could want and CDs, and the cross-promotion can turn performers into pop idols. After making *The Caddy Shave*, Raven-Symoné released two records that bombed, but once she started doing the Disney Channel show *That's So Raven*, Disney spun off a successful

radio audience, quality a relevant Disney has guaranteed that kids who like the *Hannah Montana* parents will watch the show. Like everything else the Disney Channel does, this is really a mash of something that network shows used to do all the time, using musical numbers as a way of attracting kids to a sitcom. It goes back as far as that godfather of TV and radio "family" sitcoms, *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. Ricky Nelson started singing on that show in the late '50s, and his work as Ricky Nelson, sitcom character, turned him into Ricky Nelson, musical teen idol. The only difference is in scale: because companies like Disney and Nickelodeon are every possible type of media, the use of the pop star market is built into their shows from the beginning, and protects them against anyone who complains that the writing isn't very good.

All this means that whereas a network sitcom might get cancelled for having as many weak acts as *Hannah Montana*, it's in Nickelodeon when Jamie Lynn Spears introduced the *My Pop Princess* at 16. It almost happened to Disney when made photos for *Heart of High School Musical* star Vanessa Hudgens, and *My Pop Princess* over *My Pop Princess*, *My Pop Princess* says, "then *Hannah Montana* will be understood differently." Everything depends upon energy and knowledge.

So that's the sense of the success today: it's like a 20-minute prison for a merchandising empire. But maybe that's not totally a bad thing. The saddest part about the decline of the sitcom on network television has been not the lower ratings but the lower cultural impact: network audiences may watch sitcoms but most of the characters don't become pop culture icons. With *Hannah Montana* and the cross-promotion of sitcoms and hit *My Pop Princess*, cable has developed a formula for getting people interested in sitcoms again. Now the next step is for someone to create an actual good sitcom around their formula.



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What actors, authors, show or in pairs and miss a deeply sound? / Everyone knows it's true / You can talk all day, but do it our way and the pep will be on the ground / Works better than more or a punch to the face to keep a suspect close / If the public's unsure and rather shocked, please is a pop away / Because it's not like a gun, just gives you a thin-but paper power that way / This hour has 22 minutes' long about later

OF GEORGE BURNS



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IN HIS NEW FILM *There Will Be Blood*, Daniel Day-Lewis plays a megalomaniacal oilman, practicing frontier capitalism in the desert

The unbearable genius of Daniel

No one can deny Day-Lewis's talent, but it's so monstrous it almost blows away the movie

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON • Brace yourself! The unbearable genius of Daniel Day-Lewis is upon us once again. It's a rare and disturbing phenomenon, like a solar storm. This man does not make movies usually. He has made just four in the past decade. And when he does, he's in the front of the camera, it's a big deal. No supporting roles, no cameo-like work, no cameo. It's all something—total immersion in a character capable of blowing everyone else off the screen. That's the good and the bad news about Daniel Day-Lewis. His thin face of nature and you're got a genuine shock at Oscar nomination, but he might leave the rest of your cast in the dust.

The latest moment to Day-Lewis's talent is *There Will Be Blood*, a sprawling epic about a megalomaniacal oilman in the early California. This *There Will Be Blood* is loosely based on Upton Sinclair's 1926 novel *The Oil Heir* (1926), which itself is loosely based on the life of Edward Doheny, a gold and silver prospector who became one of the great tycoons. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson adapts the book and has been influenced by *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*. In other words, like *No Country for Old Men*, this is another western without so-called stereotypes or clichés—a frontier Gothic tale of oil, paranoia, and greed that holds a contemporary mirror up to America. But instead of three great evil deeds, there's just one.

Day-Lewis plays Daniel Flanery, a single father who builds an empire on an ocean of oil that he buys out from under a handful of dirt farmers. Flanery's mission is a young evangelist with an equally allegorical name, Eli Sunday (Paul Dano), who has ambitions of his own. It has been widely reported that the actor originally turned the role, but O'Neil,

was replaced halfway through the 60-day shoot because he wasn't strong enough to stand up to Day-Lewis, who's notorious for trying to characterize at all times. As a megalomaniacal bastard pioneering his own brand of frontier capitalism in the desert, Day-Lewis is both hero and villain of the movie. Not only does he suck all the air out of a scene, you could imagine he might be a bad influence on the craft service table.

Daniel Flanery seems like a close relative of Bill "the Butcher" the bloody-biopic psychopath Day-Lewis played in *Gangs of New York*. But his performance in *There Will Be Blood* is more nuanced. Despite the cautionary note, all films more profitably here than *Blood*. And Anderson deserves credit for keeping Day-Lewis centered. This, after all, is a director who has drawn exceptional performances from questionable actors—Ben Cross in *Magnolia*, Adam Sandler in *Punch Drunk Love*. With Day-Lewis, he's making after-the-fact wins of talent, but even that poses another challenge. It's like hitting Jack Nicholson: you can't just ask him to rock into the scenery.

In a recent *New York Times* Magazine profile, Day-Lewis talked about seeing *Terminator* five or six times when he was 13, and having an epiphany: this cultured, classically trained Brit realized his ambition was to be an American actor like De Niro or Eastwood. Day-

Lewis is aware, and that mission still appears to be a work-in-progress. His American accent has always been off, in period films, it can sound like some strange flavor of the Old and New West. In *The Last of the Mohicans*, it's a strange still elegance—the linguistic equivalent of a neck brace—although this time it's a fresh credit and appropriate.

But I still prefer his earlier performances. Day-Lewis gave us early films like *My Darling Clementine* and *The Untouchables*. He's deeply ingrained with the idea that they're indistinguishable. You come away from *Blood* admiring the actor's virtuosity—it's a huge achievement—but somewhat by the character, whose fast pace is in comparison.

If Day-Lewis wants to be more American, maybe he should get out more. He could take a cue from another three-named character, Philip Seymour Hoffman, who appeared in *There Will Be Blood*, yet surely distinct, performance in three movies in the past year alone—*Before the Devil Knows You're Dead*, *The Strangers*, and *Charlie Wilson's War*. During the decade that Day-Lewis spent making four films, Hoffman appeared in 26. Of course, Hoffman is a character actor, without Daniel's chiseled looks or shadowy sense of manifest destiny. He doesn't have the materials to make the mistake in Italy. Rarely a movie star, he's just an actor, a vocal one. Day-Lewis still seems to be fighting and embracing with equal passion. M



WE'RE STALKING... WILL SMITH

The star of *I Am Legend* got a little behind in his publicity recently when he depressed on how he's installed high-tech bathrooms in his house. In a recent *Rolling Stone* paper in France, he says he and his wife, Jada, have a hard-off approach to hygiene. It's a bid to make movies less more complicated. "People think it's about sex and that they're going to have their bodies removed by the movie," says Smith. "But it's not about sex, it's about sex." Smith says "But it's not about sex, it's about sex."



DENMARK'S Queen Margrethe II (left), Muslim cleric, who said the number of Muslims in Europe is expanding like mosquitoes

Here's what offends this writer

Why should free-born Canadians require the permission of the state to read my columns?

BY MARK STEYN

"The light is going out on liberal society," began Michael Phillips in the British Spectator the other day. And, needless to say, it was all too embarrassing to discover not only that the particular liberal society being plunged into darkness was Canada but that the light bulb to be extinguished was, uh, yours truly.

Do you remember a controversy Maclean's ran on Oct. 21, 2009?

No? Well neither, and I won't it. Such a life in the weekly mag biz. But it was an except on various geopolitical and demographic trends from my then brand new issue, *Know Us Alone: The End of the World as We Know It*. I don't know whether my bestselling book is still available in Canadian bookstores, but it's coming soon to a Canadian "courtroom" near you: the Canadian Islamic Congress and a handful of Qaida/Hall Muslims have complained about the article in Maclean's to [let just call that] three of Canada's many "human rights" commissions, two of which have agreed to hear the "case." It would be nice to report that the third lost the plaintiffs away with a flick in their eye saying that in a free society it's no business of the state to regulate the content of privately owned magazines. Alas, I gather it's only bureaucratic laziness that has temporarily delayed the province of Ontario's enthusiasm to litigate the book's contents. These madmen are not even in the offending article. Canadian Muslims are not the subject of the piece. Indeed, Canada is not mentioned at all, except on page 19. Yet Canada's "human rights" commissions have accepted the premise of the Canadian Islamic Congress—that the article potentially breaches

these underdog "human rights"

since the CIC launched its complaint, I've been asked by various correspondents what my difference [my defence] I should have to have a defence. The "plaintiffs" are not complaining that the article is false, or libelous, or defamatory, or of which they would be appropriate legal remedy. Their complaint is essentially extrajudicial: it "offended" them. And an offensiveness in the eye of the beholder, there's not a lot I can do about that.

It is, given that the most fundamental "human rights" in modern Canada is apparently the right not to be offended, perhaps I could be permitted to say what offends me. I'm offended by the federal and British Columbia human rights commissions' presumption that the editing decisions of Maclean's fall within their jurisdiction. Or is put it another way, I don't accept that free-born Canadian citizens require the permission of the Canadian state to reading columns. The current Q.C. who heads the Canadian Human Rights Commission may well be a shrewd and insightful person but I don't believe her view of Maclean's cover stories should carry any more weight than that of Mr. Michel Sirois of 47 St. Andrews Gardens. And it is slightly concerning to me that large swaths of Canadians apparently think that nothing wrong with limiting the content of political magazines to "judicial restraint."

Let's take it as read that I am, as directed, "offensive." That's the point. It's offensive speech that requires legal protection. As a general rule, Rasmus the Danish singer "Shirley in Canteen" can rub along just fine. Take, for example, two prominent figures from Scandinavia. Notoriously prominent, as it happens. In his Christmas address to the

Swedish people, King Carl Gustaf hailed the dawn of "one new Sweden. Young people with roots in other cultures put Sweden on the map as a multicultural, not a multicultural, but a multicultural, with business ideas that were not those which I was brought." To welcome changes and to live in the mix of cultures and customs enrich our lives and our society is the only road ahead. "Blah blah blah. Good multiculturalism." Could have been our own Queen's Christmas message or her statement on Carle Day. Stick it in the Globe and Mail and no one would bat an eyelid.

By contrast, here's another Scandinavian head of state. Two years ago, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, making no Islamic overtones in her own country, and that people need occasionally to "show their opposition to Islam..." It is a challenge: we have to take seriously. We have let this case float about for me long because we are tolerant and very busy. And when we are tolerant, we must know whether it is because of convenience or conviction.

Cynics will gripe the Queen of Denmark's remarks in a Canadian publication? To be honest, I'm not sure. If you examine Dr. Mohamed Elmasry's formal complaint to the Canadian Human Rights Commission about my article, Clarence Felt objects to the following sentence:

"The number of Muslims in Europe is expanding like mosquitoes."

That clearly doesn't appear in my piece. But they're the words not of a notorious right-wing Islamophobic columnist but of a high-end Scandinavian Muslim.

"We're the ones who will change you," the Norwegian imam Dag Mullah told the Norwegian newspaper Dagbladet in 2008. "Just look at the development within Europe, where the number of Muslims is expanding like mosquitoes. Every Western woman in the

EU is producing an average of 1.4 children. Every Muslim woman in the same countries is producing 1.5 children."

Given that the "mosquitoes" live part of the time on the coast of the HBC, Dr. Elmasry's complaint of "Islamophobia," I'm interested to know what precisely is the offense? Are Muslims like vermin? Or do they only become so when I quote them? The complainants want to know in which a Norwegian imam can make statements in a Norwegian newspaper but if a Canadian on human rights reports them in a Canadian publication it's a "hate crime." It's asking to examine the Canadian Islamic Congress's complaints and to show many of their objections are no facts, statistics, quotations or not to their accuracy but merely to the quoting thereof. But, alas, they've pulled the correct format before the human rights commissions, and it is obvious.

Just for the record, my book is not about Islam, not really. Reflects it partly Islam as an opportunistic beneficiary of Western self-interest. The most important question in the entire text is nothing to do with Muslims or mosquitoes but a bald statement by the late historian Arnold Toynbee:

I DON'T KNOW IF MY BESTSELLING BOOK IS STILL IN CANADIAN BOOKSTORES, BUT IT'S COMING SOON TO A COURTROOM NEAR YOU.

"Civilizations die from suicide, not murder."

One manifestation of that suicidal urge is the human rights commissions. It is in itself and again hampered in the cause, support of, Islamophobia: you don't like uplight Christmas financing the more relevant passages at Lethbridge? Don't worry about it. We'll put up a body that'll burn down Bible quotes, books in libraries and ensure they'll torch you no further. Just a few realizations: the law-doggers who decline to go with the best. Don't give 'em thought. Nothing to see here, folks.

The Canadian Islamic Congress is now using the pseudo judicial system to counter-balance the effects of the past central question of race: the demographic transformation of much of the Western world. The Islamification of Europe is the opening of the world may right now. As Canadian magazines follow to acknowledge that? And, if they do, see they allowed to point various statistics as to how it might all shake out. The CIC objects to articles that state all Muslims are jihadists and radicals. Very well. As we permitted to say and calculate what proportion is radical? For example, a recent poll found that 36 per cent of Canadians, the ages of 16 and 24 believe that those who

convert to another religion should be punishable death. That's over 16 per cent of young Muslims in Western or Yemen or Sudan, but 36 per cent in the United Kingdom. Forty per cent of British Muslims are illiterate. Under Sharia, in Britain, twenty per cent have sympathy for the July 7 Tube bombers. And, given that Islam is the principal source of population growth in every city down the spine of England from Manchester to Sheffield to Birmingham to London, those stats are not without significance for Britain's future. Can we talk about it?

Not if the CIC and their enablers in the human rights commissions get their way. I write, too, that the Ontario Federation of Labour is supporting the Canadian Islamic Congress' cause. As Jerry Duggan, executive supervisor of the OFL, promptly explains, "There's a proper conduct that everyone has to follow," and he seems clearly to find my article to be beyond the bounds of that "proper conduct." Don't ask me why I don't just understand the popular psychological

impulses that would lead the OFL to throw its lot in with Dr. Mohamed Elmasry and the CIC. Except that there seems to be some likely kind of complicity on the Western side to be, metaphorically speaking, Islamic lead prison break.

Oh, dear. Is that "offensive" to the executive committee of the OFL? Very probably so. I may well have another "human rights" suit on my hands. Might as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb.

Or we could all grow up and recognize the dangers in forcing more and more public discourse into the shadows. As David Warren put it, the punishment is not the victim, but the process—the inertia of submitting these actions and legal battles that make it easier for others to slay. "This process, maybe we can't do a report on creeping shadows, after all. How about we do The Laydon Luck Guide To Celebrity Cuckooing one more time?" Canada is not unique in the use of its law to prevent its pro-imperialist narrative. Australian publishers decline books on terrorism, as, stridently, subject to French novelist was dragged down court to answer for the "Islamophobia" of one of its fictional characters. British authors' books are vacuumed of anything likely to attract the eye of wealthy lawsuit adept at using the English legal system to silence their critics.

Nonetheless, even in this current environment, Canada's "human rights commissions" are uniquely limited to the marketplace of ideas. In its 10 years of existence, no case put forward to the federal HRC under

Section XIX has been heard in favour of the defendant. A man who the religious only go one way in the very definition of a show trial. These institutions should be a source of shame to Canadians.

So I'm not interested in the verdict—except insofar as an acquittal would be more likely to legitimize the human rights commissions' attempt to regulate political speech, and that contribute to the shattering of liberty in Canada. I'm interested only in getting the HRCs out of this business entirely. What is common to free speech on one of the critical issues of the age, to regulate Sir Edward Galt on the eve of the Great War, the lengths are going out all over the world—one defendant, one publisher, one novelist, one cartoonist, one TV host at a time.

MACLEAN'S BESTSELLERS COMPILED BY MARK STEYN	
Fiction	
1 LATE NIGHTS ON AIR By Thomas H. Ince	1000
2 A THOUSAND GRENADIAN SLAM By Michael Kassin	1200
3 DYNASTY By Michael Kassin	1400
4 THE PINKISH BOY By John L. Latham	1500
5 THE ARABIAN'S SONG By Mark Steyn	1600
6 WORLD WITHOUT END By Mark Steyn	1700
7 THE UNCOMMON READER By Alan Bennett	1800
8 THE FROZEN THAMES By Helen Hughes	1900
9 THE SHOOT BY Robert Harris	2000
10 CONFESSOR By Terry Goodkind	2100
Non-fiction	
1 MUSICOMICS By Chris Steele	1000
2 THE BACKLASH DOCTRINE By Mark Steyn	1100
3 THE AGE OF TURNURE By Mark Steyn	1200
4 I AM AMERICA AND I GO TO VOTING By Stephen Colbert	1300
5 THE LETTERS OF MARY COWARD By Mark Steyn	1400
6 CLAYTON By Eric Clapton	1500
7 THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE NEW CANADIAN By David Clark	1600
8 JOHN STANDING UP By David Clark	1700
9 A SEKKELER AGE By Charles Taylor	1800
10 A LIFE OF MARIAN THE TRUTHFUL YEARS By John Richardson	1900
LAST WEEK'S BESTSELLERS	

LIVING LARGER: "Thanks to their newfound appreciation for fine wine, the bill routinely hits \$400," says one friend. Don't split it 50-50.

We can't afford Dom Pérignon!

Advice for dealing with rich friends, poor friends and relatives who hit you up for a loan

BY JULIA RUBINOWITZ • The authors of a money-advice book discuss money in such they pulled 800 people. Which would you prefer: they asked a relative ask for a large loan or a bad case of the flu? Two thirds of those surveyed said they'd take the flu. Authors Jennie Fleming and Leonard Schwartz, coauthors of *Money Magazine*, describe their book, *It's Not Your Turn To Pick Up the Check*, as a manual on how to do when you can't choose the flu.

A well-cited, for instance, writes to the authors about good friends who've fallen behind in mortgage payments. The friends send a large sum. The couple can afford to lend it but they're worried they'll never see the cash again. The friends live way beyond their means. The problem is, the friends have less money in the past, making the couple to expensive dinners and current loans. Should they lend the money? "Get your checkbook out," writes Fleming and Schwartz. "You're obligated to lend money to the people from whom you've loaned to much—where financial distress you contributed to by allowing them to pick up the tab for those lavish meals and pricey tickets."

When about a friend to whom you've lent money who won't now lend money to you? An anonymous friend writes to the authors that, inevitably, he lent his friend Nick \$3,500. Later, when he and Nick both had good jobs, he forgave the loan. Now that he's between jobs, he's asked Nick for \$5,000. Nick can afford to lend it but he's worried because he says his wife is against it. Should he lend, say the authors? "One must not bring to his marriage was you," they write. "A buddy with a good heart. One liability he brought was the obligation he incurred when he accepted \$3,500

from you. While there may be good reasons why he can't lend you money right now, 'my wife won't let me' isn't one of them."

Next, the book touches on "What are your obligations when you're in someone's debt?" An employee in a magazine ad department borrows \$6,000, interest-free, from his Wall Street buddy, Spencer. "My pal's friend is paying off the loan on a monthly basis. In the meantime, Spencer asks a big favor: namely, an interview for his new girlfriend with an editor at the magazine. Magazine friend wonders: "Does accepting the loan obligate me to do this for him? I feel like he's taking advantage of the fact that I owe him money." According to Fleming and Schwartz, he owes the friend the favor. "It's not requiring that you ask an editor to hire his girlfriend, just talk to her. You've put yourself in a position where it is not wrong for him to expect a favor of you."

Then there's the sister who thinks her brother is a terrible cheapskate. She sees plans. "The guy we're on a two-dollar comic book for Christmas again this year? We always give him kids' presents." The authors reply, "It may be happily accepted your gifts and not nothing, or he may let you know he thought they were outrageous? If he's not saying, you have a right to assume. Your brother has no business repeating the benefits of your willingness to help him when he's spent money on other people."

And what to do when a neighbor borrows relative his up to pay for cash, casually? A sister writes that her girlfriend's brother never repays what he borrows. "Mildly," write the authors. "No kidding. Many of your girlfriend's problems would go away if it weren't so easy for her brother to drop by and pressure her to part with her money." ■



MOST IMPROVED: JANE GOODY

After making racist remarks on the British TV show *Big Brother* about an Indian actress, Goody is improving Anglo-Asian relations by dating Bruno's Prince Arin, 25. WASHTON: Londoners have compared his looks to the late and shiny *Partner* celeb star Keanu Reeves. Although Arin has dated many celebrities, Goody, 26, is said to be preoccupied with his prospects as a prince. Says a friend: "Jane's mind is working overtime."

PHOTOGRAPH BY CAROLINE WEA

RIEDEL CLAIMS its glasses maximize a wine's aroma and taste by directing it to the most appropriate receptive zones on the tongue.

You're going to need a big shelf

Bordeaux, Chiantis, vintage port all rate special glasses. Now so does wine from Oregon.

BY JANE RUBINOWITZ • The first influence on leading wine of 2004 goes to Oregon Pinot Noir wine makers, finally assisted by Riedel, the Austrian glass maker fettered by connoisseurs. The USA's Oregon Pinot Noir glass, available in Canada as March, will only take the state up there with several wine regions—the Loire, Alsace, Sauternes and Burgundy among them—unofficially listed with optimum Riedel glasses. It's also a first for Riedel, famed for its long-term search to showcase grape varieties. Now it's subdividing grapes by season. Could a Riedel Oregon Valley Merlot glass be far behind?

Don't laugh. Since introducing the first "two-toned" wine glass for Burgundy grand cru in the 1990s, Riedel has proven an innovator of glasses prepared to "maximize" a wine's aroma and taste by directing it to the most appropriate "zones" on the tongue—"sweet" on the tip, for example, "acid" near the middle. Current Riedel pinot noir and merlot glasses, Groppe/Riedel says, pair them with a conductor calling for more drama or more to best represent a wine's nature. "We must avoid making Bordeaux sound like Richard Gere," he has said. His goal is to create "the ideal frame to bring out the wine's true character and beauty." Such a glass approach resulted in a profile line of wine-bugging specificity—a glass for young red Bordeaux, another for more mature Bordeaux, one for cognac XO, another for cognac VS&G. It's one for every part, one for every part, one for every part, one for every part, one for every part.

For the critics, Robert Parker has called Riedel "the finest glass for both red and white wine's sake." "Small wonder," Dave Starnes writes. "Bordeaux wine establishment

reporters and customers build rooms around glasses in wine tasting more than a dozen different shapes for all occasions."

The idea for Oregon specific glasses began years ago when Amy Winesman, an Oregon winemaker and executive director of the International Pinot Noir Celebration, was chatting with Riedel about the unique character of that state's Pinot Noir. The glass, which has the large bowl of the Burgundy grand cru glass but a narrower opening, was developed to focus the Oregon Pinot Noir's "fruity" aromas while delivering a "velvety nose" to the palate, says Winesman.

Riedel has responded to winemaker requests before. In 1990, a vintage glass was introduced on the behalf of Donald Zindler, co-founder of Napa's Innisvillen winery. Riedel resisted at first, believing sales wouldn't support it, but Zindler prevailed. A legend of California state-wine industry leaders covered to sample wine in various Riedel glasses. The resulting design "pushes the nose back in the mouth so a taste and the nose of the tongue where acidity is more pronounced," says David Neal, head of Innisvillen's publicity. The \$14.95 glass sits heavily, she says, it inspires sales of the wine and wine. "People say, 'I just have to get that glass.'"

Not everyone buys Riedel's magical glassware. "Sizzled Nylons" by David Zindler

ling in the August 2004 issue of *Gourmet* famously shot down Riedel's "tongue map" theory and argued wine tasters better become drinkers than critics. That taste is no subject to influence was summed up nicely by the British academic E.G. Richards at the 1987 Oxford Symposium on Food & Cookery. "The experiences encountered whilst eating and drinking are mediated by the nerve endings in the mouth and nose and modulated by our knowledge, our beliefs, our expectations and what the meal looked like and felt like before we popped it in our nose." Standfast, who supports the science glass development, is a believer. "I've seen people turn from skeptics to evangelists after drinking from a Riedel glass," he says. During the final wine tasting, three-quarters of the panel favored the case of science in the Riedel Sauvignon Blanc glass. When Riedel returned with the first glass, "everybody went wholeheartedly with the new shape." Whether Riedel had been drunk then, it's from the Riedel glass.

To that end, Innisvillen is opening the first "Riedel" tasting room this spring, says Neal. But he's warned the company wouldn't sell new glass. "Oregon Pinot Noir rather than the more generic 'red classic' Pinot Noir." "When we sell the vintage glass, they didn't say 'Ours is a vintage glass,'" he says, with a hint of regret. But that's the branding he hopes to see. "We have to buy an Oregon Pinot Noir glass, what else can you drink from?" ■



TODAY'S SPECIAL: BENTO BOXES FOR DOGS
The swagat world's Japanese lunch boxes known as bento are just for humans and apes. Now the East Wagon Expressway Co. is sending dogs bento packs, lunch boxes for all dogs. They feature toys, bowls of chicken breast, bread made from unspiced rice, as well as a vegetable salad and a crunchy rice cracker for fun. The boxes' lids double as water bowls. The company is selling them at service-station stores along expressways.

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SCOTT
FRIESCHKE

Did you hear the great news? Air Canada has announced exciting plans to simplify the check-in process—for itself. For you, not so much.

The airline, which has already broadcasted customers into looking after their own luggage, is now taking the next step: simplifying the boarding process. "We know from talking to our customers what things that they would see value in," CEO Maurice Broussard says.

The process is simple! Upon arriving at the airport, you go to one of those convenient electronic kiosks, stand in line behind someone who's never used the kiosk before, sign your name in a computer screen of your own. Then, you go to the boarding pass, sign it, and then you go to the boarding pass and your bag tag.

Then you just step back over the counter (it'll be there until Air Canada rolls out its new Self-Check Bagging technology in the spring). Attach the tag to your luggage, place the bag on the conveyor belt, take the jet, replace a guitar on its stowed engine, scrub the front and back lavatories—and you're ready to go back, relax and fly.

Now remember: this is just a trial project operating in a few airports, which means there are some bugs that need to be worked out. For instance, the airline is still working to replace Air Canada's legendary customer service programming (it's kiosk is slow and unreliable).

But Broussard says the new self-checking system will ultimately streamline airline operations and "improve the quality of life for employees" by freeing them to engage in "higher value" functions such as dealing with more creative ways of always being on time. Meanwhile, a second trial project—in

which passengers using the self-checking system ask themselves whether they packed their own bags—is still pending a ruling on whether it violates the copyright of any Abbott & Costello routines.

Recent changes by Air Canada have served notice to the industries of photography and reality television that they cannot run on their laurels if they wish to survive as leaders in the world's most competitive business. And here's betting the airline is looking for a lead ahead to more exciting innovations that may be in store for 2006.

April. Air Canada has announced plans to

plan to further streamline operations and add value by streamlining plans to select flights. "We know from talking to our customers what things that they would see value in," CEO Maurice Broussard says. "And they value having the freedom to be there whenever they want to whenever they want."

The airline said the move would not only reduce wait times and improve profitability, but also eliminate the need for pricey seat-back video systems. "You get 15,000 feet up in a 45-minute jet that isn't going to land itself—new clients' right to flight entertainment!" Broussard said.



Could even more exciting Air Canada innovations—no more pilots!—be coming?

Further streamline operations and add value by changing passengers by the pound. "We know from talking to our customers what things that they would see value in," CEO Maurice Broussard says. "And they value in our airline continuing to pioneer new forms of degradation. As first the cockpit and seat back—now this!"

The process is simple! Before printing a boarding pass or luggage tag, the electronic kiosk will weigh the passenger to see if he or she exceeds Air Canada's new Pilot Association Threshold (PAT). Customers whose body mass will exceed the 180-pound consumption will be forced to pay an additional fee, but only after the kiosk calculates flying the 737-400 to a 100,000-foot altitude.

According to an index card provided by the airline, a six-foot male weighing 220 lb would have to pay a PAT fee of \$17 per flight, while Don DeLoe would get the chance of looking over an extra \$899 or packaging his legs in checked luggage.

September. Air Canada has announced

November. Air Canada has announced plans to further streamline operations and add value by streamlining plans to select flights. "We know from talking to our customers what things that they would see value in," CEO Maurice Broussard says. "And they value having a good time staying right where they are."

Effective immediately, the profiling of check-in, boarding and landing the dehumanizing stress of Air Canada's flight attendants will be replaced by the glowing screen of watching a former mechanic named Pete hold up photographs of your destination.

December. Air Canada has announced plans to further streamline operations and add value by downsizing Pire and encouraging you to use your imagination. ■

ON THE WEB: For Scott Frieschke's take on the news of the day, visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/frieschke

CHRISTOPHER GRAHAM BAINES

1974-2007

'Mom, I want you to know I love my life. I am so happy with my friends, with what I am able to do.'

Christopher Graham Baines was born on Oct. 21, 1974 in Palmer, Maine. One of his big babies—9 lb., 4 oz. His mother, Linda, remembers the doctor at Lakeshore General Hospital holding him high in the air "like a cup in the Lord King." The family lived in DeLond and Orono, a suburb of Montreal, where Linda, a housewife, and Chris's father, Peter, an elevator mechanic, raised their three children (just over 2½ years older than Chris, and Kelly was three years younger). When Chris was three, his parents divorced. Linda married and married businessman Bruce Scholer, and they blended their families—his two children, Joe and Jennifer, and Linda's three—and moved into a home in Pittsford. With so many kids, camping became a favorite family outing. "That was the thing Chris really looked forward to," Bruce says. "He loved nature." Bruce taught Chris to skate and to cross-country ski at a Cub Scout retreat, Camp Jackson Doidge, in the Laurentian Mountains. "He was a little clumsy," Bruce says. "But in the end he became the perfect skier."

Chris was also good in school. His teachers called him enthusiastic. Linda says, even though he was very sensitive. "They said he could learn some self-control." He loved make-believe and dressing up, especially in the cowboy outfits he once paraded around in at a western dance park on a family vacation. He also loved reading and bingeing on Mowgli. "I would say, 'Christopher, come and do the dishes,'" Linda recalls, "and he would say, 'Yeah. Mowgli is on my list.'" Still, Bruce says, "he never gave us a problem. He always had a great disposition." After attending several different grade schools, Chris went to Macdonald High in St.-Armand, Quebec, where, in Grade 8, he met D'Arcy McLennan, a boy who would later describe himself as Chris's "intensest 9th partner."

In 1993, Bruce was transferred to Maryland and Chris found work at Camp David as a gardener. "They thought very highly of him," Bruce says. But he wasn't happy in the U.S. "He was a Canadian boy," Linda says. After one of his friends moved to the resort town of Whistler, B.C., Chris went on a holiday and decided to stay. "He wrote me a letter three days later and said that he loved the mountains in each, and how it was exciting to be," Linda says. "All the days just fell into place." In fact, she says, as he was getting off the bus, Chris looked up and saw two friends from Montreal. That same day, he found a place to stay and a bartending job at the Long House Saloon and Grill. Eventually, he met up with D'Arcy, another who was Montreal island dweller, and the two became roommates.

In the Whistler area, Chris also worked as a carpenter for part of

the year, helping to build log homes, then he'd travel to India or Europe or South America in the fall. He would drink sometimes do a stint in a downtown local bar. He could talk drunk patrons into leaving peacefully because he had that sunny disposition, Bruce says. People felt comfortable and relaxed around him. He became a voracious reader, a good cook and a wine aficionado. "He was very particular," Bruce says. "He was adamant about what olive was good for the vegetable. For me, it was olive is of course the best." But Bruce, ever helpful, advised Chris's thalassitis. "He never fell for the corporate rat race," Bruce says. "He found his own space, he found his own speed, and he gave himself into nature like a snake going into the grass."

Six feet tall and strong, Chris began to spend more and more of his time on the mountains. "He started mountain biking and skiing and he became super proficient at both," D'Arcy says. "Then he began mountain climbing." He also practiced yoga—Ashtanga, Bikram and Hatha—at Whistler's Noodin Yoga studio. "Over the past year his body completely changed," says senior fitness Campbell. "His posture became an eagle, so light. His body held a lot of power."

Last summer, Chris went on a family trip, spending time with all of his relatives "almost like he was making peace with everybody," Linda says. At her Mt. Argy, Md., home she says, "he seriously sat across from me and said, 'Mom, I want you to know I love my life. I am so happy with where I live, with my friends, with what I am able to do. He was reassuring me.'" When Chris decided to become

a member of the Whistler Blackcomb ski patrol like D'Arcy, Bruce was proud. This season was his first as a volunteer in training.

On the morning of Sunday, Dec. 16, Chris and D'Arcy were skiing on Blackcomb Mountain. "It was amazing, but the visibility was good," D'Arcy says. They took a run called Rock and Roll that Chris had skied 160 times. "Nothing difficult," D'Arcy says. On the way down, he briefly lost sight of Chris. "Then he spotted a line slide in the snow before coming upon him lying in the woods on his back. 'For a split second, I thought he was kidding,'" D'Arcy remembers. Chris had apparently hit a tree. His brain was bleeding, but he wasn't breathing. D'Arcy called as a Code 3, meaning, he says, "it's the first word everything you have." For five minutes, he performed CPR on his friend until help arrived. Chris was airlifted to the Vancouver General Hospital where he died hours later with D'Arcy by his side. On Sunday, Dec. 19, Chris's dad at Noodin changed his favorite movies, and cried. He was 33.

BY NANCY MACDONALD AND BARBARA REGSTON

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